CONFIDENTIAL.] [No. 38 of 1913

REPORT

ON

NATIVE PAPERS IN BENGAL

FOR THE

Week ending the 16th August 1913.

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PART I OF WEEKLY REPORT.

List of Vernacular Newspapers.

(Corrected up to the 1st July 1913.)

No.	Name of Publication.	Where published.	Edition.	Name, caste and age of Editor.	Circulation.
1	2	3	4	5	6
	BENGALI.				
1	"Bangaratna" ...	Krishnagar	Weekly	Kanai Lal Das, Hindu, Karmokar; age 28 years	1,500
2	"Bangavasi" ...	Calcutta	Do.	Bihari Lal Sarkar, Kayastha, age 56 years; Hari Mohan Mukherji, Brahmin, age 45 years: Satyendra Kumar Basu.	15,000
3	"Bankura Darpan"	Bankura	Do.	Rama Nath Mukherji, V.L.M.S., Brahmin, age 52 years; Viswanath Mukharji, B.L., Brahmin, age 49 years.	453
4	"Barisal Hitaishi"	Barisal	Do.	Durga Mohan Sen, Hindu, Baidya, age 35 years	625
5	"Banga Janani"	Rangpur (Bhotmari)	Do.	Sasi Mohan Adhikari, Hindu, Baidya, age 40 years ...	500
6	'Basumati" ...	Calcutta	Do.	Sashi Bhusan Mukherji; Hari Pada Adhikhari, age 41 years	19,000
7	"Bharat Chitra" ...	Calcutta	Do.	Pran Krishna Pyne	800
8	"Birbhum Hitaishi"	Bolepur (Birbhum)	Do.	Dibakar Banerji, Hindu, Brahmin, age 43 years	325
9	"Birbhum Varta"...	Suri (Do.)	Do.	Debendra Nath Chakravarti, Brahmin, age 39 years ...	900
10	"Birbhum Vasi" ...	Rampurhat (Do.)	Do.	Nil Ratan Mukherji, B.A., Brahmin, age 45 years	600
11	"Biswadut" ...	Howrah	Do.	Nagendra Nath Pal Chaudhuri; Hindu, Kayastha; age 38 years.	2,000
12	"Burdwan Sanjivani"	Burdwan	Do.	Probodhananda Sarkar, B.L., Kayastha, age 31 years ...	1,000
13	"Chabbis Pargana Vartavaha."	Bhowanipore... ...	Do.	Hem Chandra Nag, Kayastha, age 39 years	500 to 700
14	"Charumihir" ...	Mymensingh	Do.	Baikuntha Nath Sen, B.L., Kayastha, age 42 years	800
15	"Chinsura Varatavaha."	Chinsura	Do.	Dinanath Mukherji, Brahmin, age 47 years	1,000
16	"Dainik Chandrika"	Calcutta	Daily, except on Thursday.	Hari Das Dutt, Hindu, Kayastha, age 42 years and Kshetra Nath Sen.	2,000
17	"Dacca Gazette" ...	Dacca	Weekly	Satya Bhusan Dutt Roy, Baidya, age 46 years	500
18	"Dacca Prakas" ...	Do.	Do.	Mukhunda Behari Chakravarti, Brahmin, age 41 years ...	750
19	Dursak	Calcutta	Do.	.....	.....
20	"Education Gazette"	Chinsura	Do.	Pandit Kunud Deb Mukharjee, Brahmin, age 56 years.	1,500
21	'Faridpur Hitaishini"	Faridpur	Fortnightly ...	Raj Mohan Masumdar, Hindu, Baidya, age about 76 years...	300
22	"Hablul Matin" ...	Calcutta	Daily	Saiyid Jelaluddin, Shish, age 61 years	500
23	"Gaud Dut" ...	Malda	Weekly	Krishna Chandra Agarwalla	400
24	"Hindu Ranjika" ...	Rajshahi	Do.	Kasinuddin Sarkar, Muhammadan Printer, age 40 years ...	290
25	"Hindusthan" ...	Calcutta	Do.	Hari Das Dutt, Hindu, Kayastha, age 42 years	900
26	"Hitavadi"	Do.	Do.	Manindra Nath Basu, Hindu, Kayastha, age 43 years ...	29,000
27	"Hitavarta"... ...	Chittagong	Do.	Birendra Lal Das Gupta, Hindu, Baidya	600
28	"Islam Rabi" ...	Mymensingh	Do.	Maulvi Naziruddin Ahmad, Musalman, age about 33 years	700
29	"Jagaran"	Bagerhat	Do.	Amarendra Nath Majumdar, Hindu, Kayastha	About 300
30	"Jasohar" ...	Jessore	Do.	Ananda Mohan Chaudhuri, Hindu, Kayastha	600
31	"Jyoti"	Chittagong	Do.	Kali Sankar Chakravati, Brahmin, age 46 years	2,000
32	"Kalyani"	Magura	Do.	Biseweswar Mukherji, Brahmin, age 48 years	60

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1	2	3	4	5	6
	BENGALI—*concld.*				
33	"Kasipore Nibasi" ...	Barisal	Weekly	Pratap Chandra Mukherji; Brahmin, age 68 years	500
	"Khulnavasi" ...	Khulna	Do.	Gopal Chandra Mukherji; Hindu, Brahmin, age 32 years	500
35	"Malda Samachar"	Malda	Do.	Kali Prassanna Chakravarti, Brahmin, age 42 years	1,100
36	"Manbhum" ...	Purulia	Do.	Bagala Charan Ghosh; Hindu, Kayastha; age 41 years ...	About 500
37	"Midnapore Hitaishi"	Midnapore	Do.	Manmatha Nath Nag, Kayastha, age 35 years	500
38	"Medini Bandhab"	Ditto	Do.	Deb Das Karan; Hindu, Sadgop; age 45 years	600
39	"Moslem Hitaishi"...	Calcutta	Do.	Shaik Abdur Rahim and Mozummul Haque	6,300
40	"Muhammadi" ...	Ditto	Do.	Muhammad Akram Khan, Musalman, age 37 years, and Maulvi Akbar Khan.	About 1,400
41	"Murshidabad Hitaishi."	Saidabad	Do.	Banwari Lal Goswami; Hindu, Brahmin; age 46 years ...	206
42	"Nayak"	Calcutta	Daily	Panchkari Banerjee and Birendra Chandra Ghosh	2,800
43	"Navavanga" ...	Chandpur	Weekly	Harendra Kisore Ray, Kayastha, age 25 years	400
44	"Noakhali Sammilani"	Noakhali	Do.	Rajendra Lal Ghosh, Kayastha, age 26 years	290
45	"Nihar"	Contai	Do.	Madhu Sudan Jana, Brahmo, age 44 years	500
46	"Pallivarta" ...	Bongong	Do.	Charu Chandra Ray, Hindu, Kayastha; age 4 years ...	500
47	"Pallivasi" ...	Kalna	Do.	Sasi Bhushan Banerji, age 48 years	300
48	"Pabna Hitaishi"	Pabna	Do.	Basanta Kumar Vidyavinode, Bhattacharyya, Brahmin, age 36 years.	650
49	"Paricharak" ...	Calcutta	Bi-weekly ...	Kailash Chandra Sircar, age 38 years.	400
50	"Praja Bandhu" ...	Tippera	Fortnightly ...	Babu Purna Chundra Chakravarti, Kaivarta Brahmin, age 36 years.	150
51	"Prasun" ...	Katwa	Weekly	Banku Behari Ghose, Goala, age 42 years	645
52	"Pratikar" ...	Berhampur	Do.	Kamakshya Prasad Ganguly, Brahmin, age 66 years ...	503
53	"Purulia Darpan"...	Purulia	Do.	Amulya Ratan Chatterji, Brahmin, age 41 years	About 700
54	"Ratnakar" ...	Asansol	Do.	.....	200
55	"Rangpur Durpan"	Rangpur (Bhotmari)	Do.	Sarat Chandra Majumdar, Hindu Brahmin, age 46 years ...	400
56	"Rangpur Dikprakas"	Ditto ditto ...	Do.	Joytish Chandra Majumdar, Hindu, Brahmin, age about 35 years.	300
57	"Samay"	Calcutta	Do.	Jnanendra Nath Das, M.A., B.L., Brahmo, age 59 years ...	700
58	Sammilani	Ditto	Fortnightly ...	Kali Mohan Bose, Brahmo, age about 40 years	300
59	"Sanjaya"	Faridpur	Weekly	Rama Nath Ghosh, Kayastha, age about 40 years	500
60	"Sanjivani"	Calcutta	Do.	Sibnath Sastri, M.A.; Ramananda Chatterji, M.A., Editor, "Modern Review," etc.; K. K. Mitter.	6,000
61	"Sansodhini" ...	Chittagong	Do.	Kashi Chandra Das Gupta, Brahmo, age 60 years	400
62	"Suhrid"	Perojpur	Fortnightly ...	Ram Chandra Pal, Kayastha	150
63	"Subarnabanik" ...	Calcutta	Weekly	Kiron Gopal Singha, Subarnabanik, age 29 years	1,000
64	"Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika."	Ditto	Do.	Rasik Mohan Chakravarti, Brahmin, age 41 years, and Mrinal Kanti Ghosh.	17,000
65	"Siksha Samachar"	Dacca	Do.	Abinas Chandra Gupta, M.A., B.L., Baidya, age 36 years ...	1,500
66	"Suraj	Pabna	Do.	Kisori Mohan Roy, Hindu, Kayastha, age 38 years	500
67	"Tripura Guide" ...	Comilla	Do.	Rajani Kanta Gupta, Hindu, Baidya, age 48 years	400

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1	2	3	4	5	6
	BENGALI—*concld.*				
68	"Tripura Hitaishi"	Tippera	Weekly	Kamaniya Kumar Singha, Brahmo, age 25 years	459
69	"Vartabaha" ...	Ranaghat	Do.	Girija Nath Mukherji, Hindu, Brahmin, age 42 years ...	600
70	"Viswavarta" ...	Dacca	Do.	Abinash Chandra Gupta, M.A., B.L., Hindu, Baidya, age 36 years.	12,000
	HINDI—				
71	"Bharat Mitra" ...	Calcutta	Do.	Ambica Prasad Bajpai, Hindu, Brahmin, age 40 years ...	3,400
72	"Birbharat" ...	Do.	Do.	Pandit Ramanand Dubay, Hindu, Brahmin, age 30 years ...	500
73	"Dainik Bharat Mitra"	Do.	Daily	Ambika Prasad Bajpai, Hindu, Brahmin, age 40 years ...	300
74	"Hindi Bangavasi"	Do.	Weekly	Hari Kisson Joahar, Hindu, Kshatriya, age 37 years ...	5,500
75	"Marwari" ...	Do.	Do.	R. K. Tebrivala, Hindu, Vaisya, age 42 years	500
76	"Sudharak"	Do.	Do.	Radha Mohan Gukalji, Hindu, Agarwalla, age 50 years ...	500
	URDU—				
77	"Durbar Gazette"	Do.	Daily	Nawab Ali	1,000
78	"Al Hilal" ...	Do.	Weekly	Maulana Abul Kalem Azed, a Muhammadan age 27 years	1,000
79	"Hablul Matin" ...	Do.	Daily	Saiyed Jelal-ud-din Shiah, age 61 years	700
	PERSIAN—				
80	"Hablul Matin" ...	Do.	Weekly	Saiyed Jelal-ud-din Shiah, age 61 years	.....

Additions to, and alterations in, the list of Vernacular Newspapers as it stood on the 1st July 1913.

No.	Name of Publication.	Where published.	Edition.	Name, caste and age of Editor.	Circulation.
1	"Diamond Harbour Hitaishi"	Diamond Harbour ...	Weekly ...	.....	.....
2	"Prantavasi"	Netrokona ...	Do. ...	.....	.....

I.—Foreign Politics.

The future of Adrianople.

The *Hablul Matin* [Calcutta] of the 8th August does not know how to take Reuter's recent message that Turkey is prepared to give up Adrianople and retire behind the Enos Media line, if she gets pecuniary compensation. It does not seem at all likely that Turkey is sincere in this declaration if she has really made it. The Crown Prince lately spoke publicly at Adrianople declaring the intention of Turkey to go on holding it for ever. So the conclusion follows that if Turkey has said so she is merely taking a leaf out of the book of European diplomacy so to speak, imitating the fraud and trickery which systematically characterise the utterances and conduct of European statesmen.

Hablul Matin, Aug. 8th, 1913.

England and Turkey.

2. The *Moslem Hitaishi* [Calcutta] of the 8th August reminds England how at one time she risked men and money to save Turkey from destruction by Russia. It would be a pity, therefore, if England be now foremost in approving of Turkey's dismemberment. We wish for Turkey's welfare in the same way that we wish for England's.

Moslem Hitaishi, Aug. 8th, 1913.

Account of a years administration of North Persia by Russia.

3. The *Nama-i-Muqquddas Hablul Matin* [Calcutta] of the 4th August gives an account of Russian administration of North Persia. It says that the political administration of Russia in Khorasan and the whole of Northern Persia is based upon fraud. The aim of the singular Government of Russia is directed towards keeping a permanent hold there, and placing the provinces in the hands of local armed men and disturbers of peace from outside.

Nama-i-Muqqaddas Hablul Matin, Aug. 4th, 1913.

Among the various aims and intentions which Russia has kept in view for taking over the administration of North Persia, the principal are:—

(1) To bring about administrative changes in Azar Baijan through the agency of Rahim Khan and Samad Khan, by and putting these persons in permanent possession of those regions to establish a complete internal and external control over that province and thus make Persian administration altogether a nullity there.

(2) To create disturbance by parties and tribes in Ardbil and to make Russian occupation supreme in every nook and corner of Aslava and Ardbil, thus bringing about a complete overthrowof Persian power in those provinces.

(3) To give a footing to the champions of Salar-ud-Dowlah in the Province of Marash.

(4) To create disturbance and confusion in Mazendran through the agency of the soldiers of Muhammad Ali Mirza and Salar-ud-Dowlah and let loose robbers and raiders to devastate Mazendran in order to show the weakness of the administration in those regions.

(5) To recall Salar-ud-Dowlah from Khorasan through Astrabad and not to allow any interference in this movement by the officers of Amir Azam of Shahrod and Astrabad and then to undermine the power of Iran in that sacred country.

(6) To tempt the Turkomans of Wemoth to occupy the road of Shahrod to ruin Persian possessions and cut off the trade-centres and environments of Teheran and Meshed from the road to Ishaqabad.

(7) To bring about the co-operation of Najam-ud-Dowlah in Kochan to help the Russians to enter that province and undermine the power of Persia there.

The above will serve as an indication of the policy of Russia in North Persia. From the very beginning the Russians have been watching their opportunity to take advantage of the uprising of the inhabitants of Khorasan which will help them to gain their ulterior object; but in this they were disappointed. The Russians could do nothing to establish themselves in Khorasan as Nir-ud-Dowla from Teheran re established the power of Persia in Khorasan through the help of the Imperial troops. This sudden incursion of Nir-ud-Dowlah overthrew the Russian administration. The Russians at once changed their activities from the centre to the frontier and thus at last succeeded in taking the reins of the Government in Khorasan.

DAINIK CHANDRIKA, Aug. 4th, 1913.

The South African Emigration Bill.

4. Referring to the passing of the Bill marginally named, the *Dainik Chandrika* [Calcutta] of the 4th August thinks it a great pity that even Lord Crewe, who ought to have protected the interests of the Indian settlers in South Africa, did not protest against the Bill but gave it his support. It is, says the paper, strange that neither Lord Crewe nor the Imperial Government should have the least hesitation in supporting a measure which is highly injurious and insulting to India. It is for the Imperial Government to keep the White Colonies under proper control and guide them along the right path. But in the present instance neither Lord Gladstone, nor Mr. Harcourt, nor Lord Crewe, nor Mr. Asquith, has done their duty towards India, but rather sacrificed her interests for the sake of racial prejudice. The paper is anxious to see what steps the Indian settlers would take to resist the new law and whether they will as before enter into a passive resistance and go to jail.

II—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

(*a*) *Police.*

HABLUL MATIN, Aug. 5th, 1913.

The Cawnpore Mosque affair.

5. The *Hablul Matin* [Calcutta] of the 5th August has a paragraph on the Cawnpore mosque affair of which the following is a full translation :—

The wave of feeling which is finding expression in agitation and discussion throughout India on the Cawnpore mosque affair is not an outcome of malice or enmity towards the English. It is simply because the religion of the Musalmans has been interfered with that they are, with humility, prayers and petitions, seeking redress from the generous British Government. The Musalmans are always devoted and loyal to the British raj. In their opinion the permanence of British rule in India is indispensably necessary for the preservation of their own existence in the country. But it is not possible that for this reason they will not bring their sorrows and grievances to the notice of the Government. The agitation over the Cawnpore mosque affair is nothing but an expression of a religious feeling of the Musalmans. It is the imperative duty of the Government to take notice of this upheaval of feeling. It is a ruler's duty to be drawn by the wails and lamentations of his subjects. Musalmans had, before the occurrence of the Cawnpore incident, fully laid before the authorities their objections and religious difficulties, but unfortunately the authorities paid no heed to their prayers and petitions. Even after the demolition of the mosque, the Musalmans assembled in meetings to pray and beseech the Government for redress. This also unfortunately failed to draw the attention of the authorities to their prayer and petition. We have not yet got a colourless account of what happened last Sunday. The language of the telegraphic message which we have received leads us to think that it is the story of one party, namely, the police party. We have not yet received any account from the people's side. Four telegrams had been sent to different well-known and respectable men at Cawnpore for a true account of the incident, but strangely no reply came of even one of them, although it was waited for till afternoon. From the seriousness of the incident we surmise that the number of killed and wounded must be more than what is stated in the telegraphic account. Even if it is true that the Musalmans were going to reconstruct the mosque, we are unable to make out what necessity there was for the Magistrate to carry the matter to extremes and at last make arrangements for firing on the mob. The Musalman public should calamly and quietly hear what has happened. Every one should see that no excitement or fanaticism is created.

HABLUL MATIN, Aug. 7th, 1913.

Ibid.

6. The *Hablul Matin* [Calcutta] of the 7th August has an article on the same subject of which the following is a full translation:—

We have not yet received any account of the Cawnpore riot from the side of the public and the inhabitants of the town. The telegraphic news which came on Monday and Tuesday contained nothing but the story as told entirely

by one party, namely, the police. And it is quite natural that the story told by the police should be wholly favourable to them and unfavourable to the public. It would be foolish to expect the police to relate their own faults.

So long as the incident will not be enquired into by a representative of some unbiassed newspaper or by a commission composed of non-official members, there is no likelihood of the truth about it being found out. We are not prepared to say that the account which will be published from the people's side will be unexceptionable. It is absolutely necessary that the matter should be enquired into by a commission composed of impartial men. The Lieutenant-Governor of the United Provinces is enquiring into the affair. But we cannot at all expect that he will be able to find out the truth and decide upon the right course of action. For, His Honour's principal help in his effort to find out the truth is Mr. Taylor, the Magistrate, who demolished the mosque and has, by firing on the public, killed 30 men and wounded about 50 and has arrested about 200 men. In fact it is in the company of this his dearest Magistrate that the Lieutenant-Governor is carrying on his enquiry. He is seeing and hearing only such things as the Magistrate is placing before him personally or in writing. It is sure that His Honour will not be able to find out the truth if he relies solely on the deposition and evidence of a person who is himself a party to the incident. We learn from telegrams that the Divisional Commissioner and the District Magistrate are keeping him company in his rounds. And we have not received any news to the effect that he is carrying on the enquiry in the company of any local man. May be that only such of the local men as are under the influence of or are obliged to the Magistrate have been or will be called and asked a few questions, but that can in no way help His Honour in finding out the truth. If Government carries on the enquiry in a just and proper way, it will undoubtedly be proved that the incident occurred simply through the short-sightedness of Mr. Taylor. He first wounded the feeling of the Musalmans by not hesitating to enter into the courtyard of the mosque with his shoes on. Next he disregarded the most respectful and beseeching prayer of the Musalmans and demolished a part of the mosque by armed soldiers, with the help of bayonets. After that the Musalmans prayed and petitioned in many ways, but failed to get redress in the way of reconstruction of their religious temple. Last Sunday they went only to see the broken condition of the mosque and grieve for it by holding a meeting. There was no sign of any intention on their part to riot with the police. Had they gone to the mosque with the object of rioting, they would surely have taken with them weapons such as *dao*, knife, *lathi* and so forth, which were easily available to every one of them. But even the report from the side of the police does not say that the Musalmans appeared at the scene of occurrence with any weapons about them. Another glaring evidence of the fact that they had not come to the masjid for rioting is that although they were more than a thousand strong they did not seriously wound or kill even a single policeman. Had they had even any trivial weapon with them, they could surely have killed a few policemen. But the few policemen that have been wounded or killed have been wounded or killed by shots and *lathis* used by policemen themselves. Will this act of Mr. Taylor by which he has, by firing on such an innocent and unarmed gathering, killed 30 men and wounded 50 and has thrown 200 men into prison, redound to his heroism and greatness?

7. The *Habul Matin* [Calcutta] of the 9th August says that by praising the conduct of Mr. Taylor, Magistrate, in connection with the Cawnpore mosque affair, Sir James Meston has added insult to injury done to the Musalmans. The pain this praise has caused to the Musalmans is unbearable. Happily the Bihar Provincial League has prayed to Government for a Commission of Enquiry on the lines suggested by the *Hablul Matin*. This proposal should be urged from all quarters.

HABLUL MATIN, Aug 9th, 1913.

The Cawnpore Mosque affair.

8. The *Daily Urdu Hablul Matin* [Calcutta] of the 6th August says in connection with the Cawnpore riots that it had before-hand warned the Government against the consequences of their ill-informed policy. Government ought to proceed with a proper view of the situation and not to believe

DAILY URDU HABLUL MATIN, Aug. 6th, 1913.

Musalmans are not responsible for the Cawnpore riots.

in the advice proferred by officials which is leading them on the wrong track. The paper had already taken exception to the reports published by the Government that there was no real feeling in Cawnpore.

In conclusion, it asks the Government not to treat harshly the prisoners and the wounded in the hospital for having taken part in the fray. It demands that justice should be done, for that will create a good impression regarding British administration of India in the hearts of the Moslems.

DAILY URDU HABLUL MATIN, Aug. 7th, 1913.

Cawnpore masjid.

9. The *Daily Urdu Hablul Matin* [Calcutta] of the 7th August remarks that the door of appeal is not closed to the Musalman public. They can appeal to the sense of justice of the British Raj and British administration. Even if it be granted that the Musalmans had reconstructed the mosque, the Magistrate could have arrested them and brought them under the purview of the Indian Penal Code. But when they were not injuring the life and property of anybody in spite of their acting against the law, the only punishment which they deserved was what the law under such circumstances would allow. In the opinion of the paper, the Magistrate's order for firing at the mob was *ultra vires*. The action of the Magistrate in taking the law in his own hands and thus causing rivers of blood to flow, was far more condemnable than the action of the Muhammadans in taking the law in their own hands and reconstructing the mosque. The Magistrate ought to have acted with proper circumspection and far-sightedness. There was no necessity for impressing the minds of the people with the seal of Government prestige and power with the help of bullet shots. The Musalmans at that moment were not spilling any body's blood but were simply rebuilding the mosque. It concludes by urging the Musalmans to place their case before their Government, but without in any way infringing the laws of the country.

DAILY URDU HABLUL MATIN, Aug. 8th, 1913.

Who is responsible for the Cawnpore trouble

10. The *Daily Urdu Hablul Matin* [Calcutta] of the 8th August says that if the first and second Government *communiqués* are read with care, it will at once become plain that there are several discrepancies between them. The paper is not prepared to accept the Government view *in toto*.

DAILY URDU HABLUL MATIN, Aug. 9th, 1913.

Sir James Meston and Cawnpore riots.

11. Referring to Sir James Meston's speech at Agra, the *Daily Urdu Hablul Matin* [Calcutta] of the 9th August says that if Sir James Meston really wants to remove the blot on the Government, he ought to act on its advice. Further growth of disaffection among Moslems resulting in the disturbance of public peace is not what is wanted.

The Government is now advised to show justice by punishing those officials who are responsible for the shedding of blood so that it may be recorded in history that Government kept justice alone in view and did not show partiality merely because an Englishman was concerned. It is therefore meet that Government should win over the hearts of the ten crores of their subjects who have stood the test of loyalty on several occasions in the past.

DAILY URDU HABLUL MATIN, Aug. 10th, 1913.

General massacre in Cawnpore—The dangers arising out of administrative obstinacy on the part of the Government.

12. The *Daily Urdu Hablul Matin* [Calcutta] of the 10th August, in continuation of its articles on the Cawnpore riots, draws the attention of the Government to the invaluable services rendered by the Moslems to the British from the beginning of their rule in India. They sacrificed their lives, sold their lands, cut the throats of their co-religionists, and offered also their money. Observe even to-day that the barracks are full of the followers of the Prophet. Nobody can deny that it would not have been an easy task for the English to consolidate their administration in India, if they had not received such invaluable help from the Moslems. And this fact has been acknowledged not once but scores of times.

We ask Sir James to explain what right he has to swerve from the established principle of administration in India.

We want to point out to, as well as to remind, the Government that if the complete co-operation of the Moslems had not been available at the time of the partition of Bengal, it would not have been possible for Government to withstand the mighty agitation which followed.

It goes on to say, that this shedding of blood has been due to the obstinate and short-sighted policy of a District Magistrate, and it calls upon the Government now to consider what will be its dreadful effect upon the millions of Moslem soldiers. The Government should on this occasion follow a very conciliatory policy. They ought not to estrange the feeling of millions of their subjects.

The Cawnpore mosque affair.

13. The *Nayak* [Calcutta] of the 5th August has an article of which the following is a full translation :— NAYAK, Aug. 5th, 1913.

THE CAWNPORE AFFAIR.

Our contemporary of the *Bengalee* has expressed the same opinion on the Cawnpore mosque demolition affair as we did express on it. There can be no doubt that the authorities acted thoughtlessly. But then Sir James Meston is an able and wise ruler. When he is personally present at Cawnpore, we think that justice will be done and Cawnpore will be quiet before long. But the wave that arose at Cawnpore has extended to Lucknow and the noise that has been made at Cawnpore is being echoed at Calcutta. It will be no exaggeration to say that never before or since the construction of the Calcutta Town Hall had a meeting been held there so large as the one held on Sunday last. The meeting at Lucknow also was not a small one. Those who delivered speeches in these meetings were almost all men of position, widely respected in the country. We are, therefore, bound to say that the Cawnpore affair has reached the lowest strata of the Musalman community. This added to the fact that people have been killed and wounded has undoubtedly produced a very bad effect on the feelings of the community. The language which the Musalman public has been using towards the English Government is such as would induce one to stop one's ears to avoid hearing it. Before this the authorities used to run after Hindu boys, speakers and writers, crying "Sedition, Sedition," and what scandals have they not caused in doing so! That sedition is now spreading from mouth to mouth among Musalmans. Why have the people, who were devoted to the English two days ago, suddenly gone so wrong? Can any one answer this, "why"? The Bengali Hindu Babu is a marked man, stained with sedition. Will the Musalman also be now included in the same category? Are we to advise the Government in this matter? Have we the right to advise the Government? Let Government consider both sides and make such arrangements as will bring peace to the country and enable Hindus and Musalmans to live as friends. The Cawnpore affair has made us anxious, for we are afraid that the matter will not end where it is now, but will still go far. It is because we have this fear that we have written so much on the subject. Let us see what steps Sir James Meston takes in the matter. We are waiting for them.

"Why is it thus?"

14. The *Nayak* [Calcutta] of the 6th August has the following :— NAYAK, Aug. 6th, 1913.

The *Pioneer* referring to the recent disturbance at Cawnpore asks "why are things happening thus? Why has the Moslem community got so incensed? The English in the past demolished any number of mosques, all mosques in fact which interfered with the alignment of railways or irrigation canals. Nay more, mosques and mausoleums have been converted into godowns and even *natch-ghars* (dancing rooms). No Musalman raised any objection thereto; why then should there be such a row now about demolishing a small portion of a mosque? Who shall answer this query by the *Pioneer*? We take it on ourselves to give a frank reply.

A hundred years ago, the Moslems were the ruling race in many parts of India and a hundred and fifty years ago, it was the Moslems who used to rule three-fourths of India. The memory of this can never fade from the mind of any Moslem. It is true that Mahratta and Sikh predominance caused Musalman glory to pale for a time; it is true that in the early days of English rule, because of their not having acquired an English education, the Moslems had to remain somewhat in the background; it is true that after the Sepoy Mutiny, during the days of the Wahabi agitation, the Moslems, because of Hindu predominance, were driven

to a corner,—suppressed, so to speak. But times have altered now. English education is fast spreading among the Moslems; Moslem youths in batches are travelling to England, and they are getting an increased share of public appointments. All these are bound to have some effect. In consequence the Moslem sense of love for their own community has developed an extraordinary strength. Moreover, the social and religious ties are much stronger among Moslems than among Hindus. The influence of Maulvis and Maulanas among Moslems is very great and religion is a great binding force among them. Furthermore, improved communication and the growth of the newspaper press have also contributed to strengthening the sense of cohesion among Moslems throughout India. The Moslem League and similar bodies have also assisted in bringing about a similar result. Furthermore, during the 30 years from the *régime* of Lord Lyton down to that of Lord Minto, the rulers of India showed an undue amount of favour to Moslems. A strong impression has thus come to prevail among common illiterate and semi-educated Moslems that six crores of Moslems as they are, with a common religion and language and social usages, the English stand in dread of them; and that is why they humour them so and give them special rights at every step: that they may therefore do anything they like now. There is therefore now a firm resolution in the minds of many crores of Moslems to do whatever they like. Lastly there is the growth of Pan-Islamism. Indian Moslems, though subjects of Britain, now regard the Sultan of Turkey as their Khalifa or Overlord. Half a century ago, this idea had not obtained a strong hold on the minds of Indian Moslems. But it has now spread all over India through the development of Pan-Islamism. For all these various reasons, the spirit of attachment to the English on the part of Moslems is fast waning. This inference of ours is borne out by the kind of talk indulged in by some of the speakers at the Town Hall meeting on Sunday last. Further confirmation is afforded by the way in which Maulana Abdul Bari spoke at Lucknow the other day, inciting his audience by according religion a higher place than loyalty. Of course we make these remarks in reliance on the published newspaper accounts.

In Bengal, the Partition has been a means of adding to the courage and spirit of the Moslems. A stupid and short-sighted, arrogant and vain ruler like Sir Bampfylde Fuller assisted in bringing about this result. Yet the partition which for a time gave Moslems an all-powerful position in Eastern Bengal had to be modified. And the result has been to cause serious resentment towards the English among Eastern Bengal Moslems. Moslems have given vent to this feeling of resentment by joining, in a modified form, the Hindu congress wallas, in their cry for political rights. Next came Mr. Asquith's speech regarding the Turkish war and the attitude of the British Government in regard thereto. This has opened the eyes of Moslems. That is why Indian Moslems were so liberal in offering pecuniary help to Turkey during the war. The *Afghan*, the *Zemindar* and other Urdu Musalman papers in the Punjab and elsewhere have written and are writing articles in favour of Turkey in such outspoken language as to come within the purview of the law on sedition. The almost royal reception accorded at Delhi to Ali Khan, editor of the *Zemindar*, on his return from Turkey clearly reveals the spirit animating the Moslem community. While such was the state of Moslem mind, the incident about the Cawnpore mosque occurred. There is no doubt that this affair is going to be made a good deal of. It is no longer a secret that in this matter, the Cawnpore Moslems did not act of their own motion and that they were instigated by others to set their hand to such a revolutionary affair. Such being the facts, it is best for us to say nothing at all. Furthermore, we can do nothing but support the Government in everything it may do. But we shall now have an opportunity of seeing the forces of righteousness at work. "In* ruining yourselves you have brought ruin on Lanka (Ceylon) as well." Your "pet wife" has now taken up the broom.† And we shall feel some pleasure in looking on and seeing how roughly that broom is laid on your backs. The time is now come for the outrages of the Fullerian

* This is a translation of an often quoted verse in *Krittivasa's* Bengali version of the *Ramayana*, where Ravana is said to have brought ruin on himself and his country—the island of Ceylon.

† The muasalamns have turned against you.

régime to be atoned for. Shall we not feel some joy at the prospect? It may be a weakness on our part, but you must excuse us for it. For we have not forgotten the past yet, when it was difficult for Hindu widows to defend their honour, when the boorish *Englishman* newspaper cut low jokes at the sight of Moslems abducting Hindu widows, when arrogant Moslems used mockingly to ask their sons why they went to houses of ill-fame, while there were plenty of *bibis* (women) available in Hindu houses. We have not forgotten the desecration of the image of Basanti, the riots at Jamalpore, the rebellion at Nawabganj, the pillage at Kesur, the incidents at Comilla. We have forgotten nothing. God ordains that things should now happen differently and we shall look on, enjoying the fun. The more Moslems will get excited the more shall we, remaining aloof, enjoy the joke. Hindus as we are, we have no Khalifa, or Overlord, or other country to think of—no Mecca or Medina. Our sacred places like Gaya, Benares and Vrindaban are all in India and we own for our Emperor him who is Emperor of India. Furthermore, though we all bear the common name of Hindu we have endless diversites amongst ourselves. Thus there is a world of difference between the Bengali and the Punjabee, the Rajput and the Mahratta, the Hindusthanee and the Madrassi. Even the Biharis hate the Bengalees, close neighbours of ours though they are—the same Biharis who are neither Hindusthanees nor Bengalis and who live in Magadh, a country to live in which, according to tradition, means the prospect of being reborn as an ass. We are thus split up amongst ourselves, and lacking in energy and we have only you, English people, to look to for help. For 30 years these Englishmen whom we regard as models to be imitated in our daily life, have treated us with disdain and contumely. The time of reaction is now come. The more you will get into trouble, the more we shall look on and laugh. You do not know, but we do know everything which is taking place. Your sycophants are keeping you captivated by means of their falsehoods, and we know what it is they are keeping back from you. That leads additional zest to our enjoyment of the fun.

At the same time, though we may make merry because of the reawakening of past memories, we are bound to wish you well and give you good counsel. For no matter what we may say to the contrary, we recognise that our existence and welfare are wholly bound up with yours. So keep your heads cool, and go on punishing the guilty and cherishing the innocent, and we shall continue following you like shadows.

15. The *Hindusthan* [Calcutta] of the 9th August has the following on the affair about the Cawnpore mosque:— HINDUSTHAN, Aug. 9th, 1913.

The Cawnpore Mosque.

During the Musalman rule, Muhammadanism had unchallenged predominance in India. It is well known to everybody how the Musalman convert Kalapahar, though a Brahmin by birth, committed unspeakable oppression on the Hindu religion. History furnishes abundant proof of the persecution of Hindu religion and the sacrilege of Hindu shrines by Aurungzebe. There were several other Musalman rulers who harassed and oppressed Hindus in various ways. It is their bigoted zeal for their own religion that used to incite the Musalman rulers to persecute the Hindu religion. In many cases the rulers themselves were tolerant, but their officials, especially the Kazis, were violently anti-Hindu. Nawab Murshid Kuli Khan always used to behave kindly and well towards the Hindus, but, during his reign, a fakir, who made himself a source of annoyance to a Hindu zemindar, named Brindaban, piled a number of bricks in front of Brindaban's house and called it his mosque; and when Brindaban demolished the pile because it had been totally obstructing the entrance to his house, the fakir laid a complaint against him before the local Kazi and had the capital sentence passed upon him, a sentence which even Emperor Aurungzebe, to whom Brindaban appealed, could not dare set aside, because he had no authority over a Kazi, who, he said, was an officer of God. Thus we see that a vindictive fakir could deprive even a zemindar of his life simply because he had removed a pile of bricks which the fakir chose to call his mosque. Thanks to the good government of the country by the English, such a thing cannot take place in the present times. But Musalmans have still the same regard for their mosques as of old and this fact has been proved in the Tallah and Shambazar riots. Hindus no doubt have great reverence for their temples and shrines. But when any of their temples happen to be demolished for the sake

of a road, all that they do is to lament and protest and appeal to the Government for mercy. And when their prayers are rejected they do not commit the crime of obstructing the Government in the execution of its work, but weep in silent despair. Musalmans, however, are not of so peaceful a nature. At Cawnpore a portion of a mosque compound has been demolished for the sake of a road which is urgently needed from a sanitary point of view. The Government of the United Provinces sanctioned the demolition. But the Musalmans are not willing to let it go at that. They have worked up a great agitation whose fire, though lighted at Cawnpore, has reached Calcutta and is spreading in various directions. They are determined to have the demolished part of the mosque built again and are prepared to go up to the Secretary of State for India. All this is causing us great anxiety, for we have not yet forgotten the riots of Shambazar and Tallah. We have nothing to say about the demolition of the mosque or about the protest of the Musalman community against it. All that we are concerned with is the restoration of peace at Cawnpore—a thing which, we trust, the Musalmans will be sensible enough not to break.

BANGAVASI, Aug. 9th, 1913.

The Cawnpore Mosque.

16. The *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 9th August writes:—

The excitability of the character of Musalmans, specially in matters affecting their religion, is well-known to the Government. It is a pity, therefore, that the authorities still make blunders in dealing with them. The Indians have lost their all except their religion which is safe under the Proclamation of Queen Victoria. Any interference with it maddens them. The Cawnpore Musalmans had been excited over the Machhli Bazar mosque affair so that the local authorities ought to have taken adequate steps to prevent a breach of the peace. The mere surrounding of a place by troops is not what is really necessary in such a case. What is necessary is to allay the excitement by all means and thus prevent a disturbance. Could not the authorities allay the excitement of the Cawnpore Musalmans even when they began to assemble in the mosque? Unfortunately the arrangements which they made led only to bloodshed. A little care taken in time would have prevented this. Even now the authorities should take steps with wisdom and caution to prevent any further disturbance and cool down the excitement among the Musalmans.

HINDI BANGAVASI, Aug. 11th, 1913.

An appeal to Sir James Meston.

17. The *Hindi Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 11th August remarks that it is a matter very much to be regretted that, within such a short time of Sir James Meston's assumption of office as Lieutenant-Governor, two riots have taken place in the United Provinces. It urges Sir James not to believe in the reports of local officials in matters involving religious questions. He is asked to see everything for himself.

DAINIK CHANDRIKA, Aug. 9th, 1913.

Apprehension of a temple being demolished at Bhawanipore, Calcutta.

18. The *Dainik Chandrika* [Calcutta] of the 9th August learns with apprehension that under the fifth scheme of improvement promulgated by Mr. Bompas in Calcutta, a temple of Siva will fall within the crossing of the Lansdowne Lane and Beltola Road and be demolished. The writer prays the authorities of the Trust not to injure the feelings of the Hindus by demolishing the temple.

BANGAVASI, Aug. 9th, 1913.

Ibid.

19. The *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 9th August also publishes the same paragraph.

TRIPURA HITAISHI, Aug. 6th, 1913.

"Find of a revolver."

20. *Tripura Hitaishi* [Calcutta] of the 6th August writes:—

The recent case where a man was found at Sitakund surreptitiously carrying a revolver shows how the trade in secretly importing revolvers is still active. Special measures should be adopted by Government to check this traffic. Else the consequences will be serious indeed for the country.

HITAVADI, Aug. 8th, 1913.

Constable Kartik Chandra Sinha.

21. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 8th August writes:—

Do our readers recall the name of constable Kartik Chandra Sinha? Probably they do. It was this Kartik Chandra who was a witness for the police in the Midnapore damage suit and the High Court Judges who heard this case on appeal held him to be a most trustworthy witness. Our readers will therefore be astonished to hear that this trustworthy constable has recently been sent to prison for having extorted a bribe of Rs. 2.

Constable Kartik Chandra Sinha.

22. Referring to the above case the *Medini Bandhav* [Midnapore] of the 4th August says:— MEDINI BANDHAV, Aug. 4th, 1913.

The three Judges headed by Mr. Justice Woodroffe who heard the appeal in the Midnapore damage suit took Kartik's evidence for gospel truth and wrote their judgment accordingly. We are now really grieved at the fate of such a truthful witness.

Promotion of Inspector Bankim Chandra Chaudhury.

23. The *Charu Mihir* [Mymensingh] of the 4th August takes exception to the appointment of Inspector Bankim Chandra Chaudhury as Inspector in charge of the B. Division Police at Mymensingh, although when he was transferred from Dacca, because of his having tampered with the Police Diary, it was ordered that he would never be placed in any high and responsible position. The paper invites the attention of the Inspector-General of Police to the matter, and says that such strange things are likely to make the people lose all respect for the Government. CHARU MIHIR, Aug. 4th, 1913.

Proposed corps of volunteers to prevent dacoities.

24. The *Tripura Hitaishi* [Comilla] of the 6th August writes that it is glad to learn from the *Kalyani* of Magura that Government proposes constituting in the villages groups of young volunteers who will possess firearms and assist in preventing dacoities. This is an excellent idea. A resolution supporting this policy was unanimously adopted at the last Chittagong Conference. It was suggested that the services of these volunteers should be utilised also in founding schools and hospitals and other works of permanent utility. TRIPURA HITAISHI, Aug. 6th, 1913.

(b)—Working of the Courts.

A good rule introduced by the Chief Judge of the Calcutta Court of Small Causes.

25. The *Basumati* [Calcutta] of the 9th August thanks Mr. Thornhill, Chief Judge of the Court of Small Causes, Calcutta, for having introduced a rule requiring postcards to be written to defendants, by which means it will be impossible for unscrupulous plaintiffs to suppress summonses and get *ex-parte* decrees in their favour. BASUMATI, Aug. 9th, 1913.

The Magistrate's milk case.

26. The *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 8th August draws the attention of Lord Carmichael to the correspondence in the *Bengali* newspaper complaining of the conduct of the Sub-Deputy Magistrate at Diamond Harbour in the Alipore Magistrate's milk case. In this correspondence it is alleged that the Sub-Deputy Magistrate purposely delivered his sentence against the accused persons so late as 6-30 o'clock in the evening on Friday, in order to prevent them from getting bail by appeal on that day, or during the two following days which were holidays. In this the Sub-Deputy Magistrate contravened an order issued by the late Justice Caspersz to the effect that all sentences of imprisonment should be delivered before 1 P.M. In malicious *zid* to send a person to jail, the conduct of the Sub-Deputy was similar to that of Mr. Field, Sessions Judge, in the Tarakeswar Mohunt's case. Lord Carmichael is prayed to institute a thorough enquiry into the Diamond Harbour Case. BANGAVASI, Aug. 8th, 1913.

The Howrah shooting case.

27. Referring to the Howrah cooly shooting case, in which the accused person, the European Manager of the Fort William Mill, has been let off with a fine by the Magistrate of Howrah, the *Ananda Bazar Patrika* [Calcutta] of the 7th August writes as follows:— ANANDA BAZAR PATRIKA, Aug. 7th, 1913.

Such cases of killing natives by careless shooting are not rare in India. It behoves the Government to take steps for preventing destruction of Indian lives in the rifle sports of Europeans. We admit that accidents may happen through carelessness and that in such cases punishment should be light. But if this principle is followed in cases against Indians also, then there cannot be any objection.

Ibid.

28. Even the *Statesman* admits, writes the *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 9th August, that the punishment inflicted on the Manager of the Howrah Fort William Flour Mill, BANGAVASI, Aug. 9th, 1913.

namely, a fine of Rs. 150, for having shot a cooly dead, is too light. What can we say to this? It is our fate!

BARISAL HITAISHI, Aug. 4th, 1913.

Judgment in the "Suhrid" case.

29. The *Barisal Hitaishi* [Calcutta] of the 4th August deprecates the language which, forgetful of the dignity of his office, the District Judge of Backerganj used towards the editor of the *Suhrid*, when recently disposing of the latter's appeal against conviction for defamation. Furthermore, the punishment is undoubtedly too heavy.

PALLIVASI, Aug. 5th, 1913.

Criminal appeals and the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council.

30. The *Pallivasi* [Bongong] of the 5th August writes that the recent case of Baidyanath Pillay of Tanjore has shown the necessity of criminal appeals being permitted to be taken up to the Judicial Committee. Let steps be taken by Government so as to enable poor men also to carry their criminal appeals before this tribunal. Also let it be a rule that the execution of death sentences is to be suspended pending the result of such appeal.

(*d*)—*Education.*

BANGAVASI, Aug. 9th, 1913.

Lord Carmichael's Dacca speech and the character of students.

31. The *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 9th August says:—

From Lord Carmichael's Durbar speech at Dacca it is evident that His Excellency is quite satisfied with the character of the majority of Bengali students and is solicitous that they may not go wrong in bad company. For this reason he has requested all guardians to take particular care of their boys.

The difficulty, however, in this matter is that students generally live away from their guardians so that the latter can have no knowledge of their movements. Again, the want of any arrangement to give religious education in schools and the study of English literature and history which are full of seditious stories often pervert the intellect of Indian students. How can guardians prevent this? Again, there are teachers and professors who incite students to disregard their social practices, to marry over-grown girls and widows, and so forth. This sort of education also makes students refractory so that guardians cannot control them. Religious education is the only remedy for all this evil.

BASUMATI, Aug. 9th, 1913.

A cartoon. "The University in danger."

32. The *Basumati* [Calcutta] of the 9th August publishes a cartoon in which the Calcutta University is represented as a boat with Sir Ashutosh Mukherjee at its helm sailing between two rocks in human shape representing the Dacca and Bihar Universities, while a human-faced bird, Mr. Sharp, is trying to tear off its sail. The letter press says that the boat is in danger of foundering in a boisterous sea by striking against the rocks, while a bird from Simla is pecking at its sail.

DAINIK CHANDRIKA, Aug. 4th, 1913.

Control of high schools.

33. The following is taken from a contributed article under the heading "Narrowing education", which appears in the *Dainik Chandrika* [Calcutta] of the 4th August:—

There is a widespread rumour that the Government is about to take the education of the country perfectly under its own control, and that the benefits of education which were so long within the easy reach of every body will now be a thing difficult to obtain. But from the regrettable results which half a century of English education has led to, incline us to think that the sooner this system of education is narrowed the better. For this education has, with a few honourable exceptions, brought about a decided falling off in the moral standard of the people and is only producing a large number of hungry men year after year—men who cannot find any occupation and steep the society in discontent and sin. We are confident that if Macaulay and Bentinck had not introduced English education into India, the country would not have been so miserable as it is, the Government would not have to trouble their head about "pure study", and the fair name of Bengal would not have been tarnished by political dacoities and political cases. Those of us who are enamoured of

English education and are anxious to adopt English habits, manners and costume, and who even prefer to marry into English families, will not perhaps agree with us; but we shall all the same be very grateful to our paternal Government if they bring about radical changes in our education, for we know that whatever the Government do they do for the country's good.

In a note which appears below the article the editor of the paper says that he cannot agree with the writer of the article on many points but that he publishes it simply to show what a certain class of people think of the present system of education.

34. While admitting the honesty of the object of the Government in taking over the control of high schools in its own hands, the *Tippera Hitaishi* [Comilla] of the 30th July says that the control the Government already exercises over them is quite enough and that if it now adopts the new policy high education will suffer seriously from personal whims of the official who may be placed in charge of the Education Department. Quoting the remarks of the Hon'ble Mr. Lyon in the course of his speech at the prize distribution of the Yusuf School about the Government having the right of controlling education since it is the Government which meets its expenses, the paper says that there are a large number of private schools and colleges which play no inconsiderable part in the spread of education, and that the public have every right to be consulted before the Government launches out the new policy.

Control of High school.

TIPPERA HITAISHI, July 30th, 1913.

35. After mature reflection, the *Moslem Hitaishi* [Calcutta] of the 8th August feels bound to protest against the new educational proposals of Government. The raising of the salaries of school masters from Rs. 40 to Rs. 400 will lead to the abolition of most schools. School fees must be inordinately raised and the consequence will be to discourage poor Moslems from going to school at all. All thoughtful men in the country have protested against the proposed changes and those protests must be endorsed on behalf of Moslems, who being poor, are likely to suffer more than the Hindus who are better off.

The new Educational Policy.

MOSLEM HITAISHI, Aug. 8th, 1913.

36. The *Suraj* [Pabna] of the 4th August considers the present educational policy of the Government of India to be a very dangerous policy, likely to lay the axe at the root of high education in Bengal. What the effect of the introduction of the system of the School Final Examination will be on high schools can be easily surmised from the effect which a similar system has produced on Middle English Scholarship Examinations. Everything will be done by Inspectors of Schools and the Director of Public Instruction, and they too will probably rely on secret police reports. There will be no competitive examination at that time. Independence of thought will be destroyed. Sycophancy will be paramount. Real education will gradually be driven out of the country.

Ibid.

SURAJ, Aug. 4th, 1913.

The writer next urges all Hindus and Musalmans in Bengal to set up an agitation against the Government's educational policy, so that the King-Emperor, if not the Governor, may be induced to revoke it just as he has revoked the partition of Bengal. It is a matter which concerns the Bengalis most vitally, for in education lies their real life. To live without education is like living in death to them.

37. The *Sanjay* [Faridpur] of the 11th August takes exception to the order of the Inspector of Schools, Dacca, levying what is known as game fees from the students of Faridpur Zilla School and the Faridpur Ishan Institution, as these fees mean an extra burden on the parents or guardians of those students. The paper thinks that the expenses of the school games should be entirely borne by Government and invites the attention of the Director of Public Instruction to the matter.

School boys and game fees.

SANJAY, Aug. 11th, 1913.

38. The *Charu Mihir* [Mymensingh] of the 4th August writes:—

The rigorous rules which District Boards have made with regard to Middle English Schools will, we are afraid, put many of them out of existence before long. If the monthly expenditure of a school amounts to Rs. 145, the District Board pays Rs. 20 out of its funds and the balance has to be met by subscription and from the fees obtained from students. Now, as the fees

District Boards and Middle English Schools.

CHARU MIHIR, Aug. 4th, 1913.

seldom exceed Rs. 40 to Rs. 50 per month, the local people have to raise Rs. 15 to Rs. 20 every month by subscription—a thing which they can seldom do without great difficulty. Besides, it is not always easy to get any money out of a District Board; so the schools must now stand on their own legs.

MOSLEM HITAISHI, Aug. 8th, 1913.

Primary education in Bengal and Moslems.

39. The *Moslem Hitaishi* [Calcutta] of the 8th August has an article on Primary education in Bengal as it affects Moslems, which may be thus summarised:—

(1) The salaries of Sub-Inspectors of Schools require to be raised in order to keep pace with the rise in the prices of necessaries of life A similar concession is necessary also for Deputy Inspectors of Schools.

(2) The present position of Assistant Inspectors of Schools is anomalous. They inspect Middle English Schools just as Deputy Inspectors do. On the other hand, Deputy Inspectors correspond direct with Inspectors of Schools, over the heads of Assistant Inspectors. Besides, there are in each district two or three Deputy Inspectors, those in the subdivisions being in some respects inferior to him who is posted at the Sadar. It would be better to replace the District Deputy Inspectors by an Assistant Inspector or to give equal status to all the Deputy Inspectors within their respective jurisdictions and place them all under the Assistant Inspector.

(3) The status of the Additional Inspectors of Schools at Dacca and in Eastern Bengal is rather anomalous. If we take the Rai Bahadur's case, he is nothing better than a clerk. He has no views or opinions of his own, and he spends all his time assisting his chief in office work. He is of course very courteous, indeed too much so, but his education is very limited and he is unworthy of extensions of service for ten years and of being promoted over the head of an officer like Maulvi Abdul Karim.

(4) To sum up, the following points deserve the consideration of the higher authorities:—

(*a*) Whether or not it is proper to teach English in Middle Vernacular Schools, in order to spread education among Moslems.

(*b*) Whether or not it is possible to teach the Koran in Primary Schools.

(*c*) Whether or not Musalmans can be encouraged to write books for Primary Schools.

(*d*) Whether or not Board schools can be placed in more central positions in each union and the salaries of teachers in these schools raised.

(*e*) Whether or not the post of Inspecting Pandits may be advantageously revived?

(*f*) Whether or not Additional Inspectors should be given independent authority in their respective circles.

SIKSHA SAMACHAR, Aug. 6th, 1913.

Education in Eastern Bengal.

40. The *Siksha Samachar* [Dacca] of the 6th August is glad to find that the fears of the people of Eastern Bengal about their educational progress being retarded owing to the annulment of the Partition of Bengal and to the subsequent removal of the office of the Assistant Director of Public Instruction from Dacca to Calcutta are quite groundless. The kind and keen interest which Mr. Hornell is taking in the education of that part of the Province as well as the prospect of a University at Dacca lead the paper to hope that education will flourish in Eastern Bengal just as before.

(*e*)—*Local Self-Government and Municipal Administrtion.*

HITAVADI, Aug. 8th, 1913.

The Calcutta Improvement Trust.

41. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 8th August characterises the operations of the Calcutta Improvement Trust as arbitrary and tyrannical. Through the stupidity and the faulty methods of the Trust officers, the intentions of Government in regard to its operations are being nullified.

The latest scheme (No. 5) shows that the Trust is utterly impervious to argument and that it behaves like a pampered darling of Government. Why should Bhawanipore have incurred its peculiar hatred? Bhawanipore, Kalighat, etc., are places which in point of sanitation are not inferior to Calcutta

leaving out the European quarter. The congestion of population and traffic is much worse in parts of Calcutta than anywhere in Bhawanipore. There are places in Calcutta comparable to hell, which are hotbeds of all diseases, where the sunlight does not penetrate even at midday. People thought that the Trust would attend to these places first of all. But for some unknown reason, these hellish, dirty places are being neglected and the Trust is seeking to improve places which there is no necessity of improving just now. The dangerous affection for Bhawanipore which the Trust is displaying is really alarming.

The operations of the Trust suggest the idea that it often forgets the public interests and wastes public money, in order to please particular communities or from sheer caprice. The money to be spent on the schemes so far notified might all have sufficed to effect many urgently needed improvements in Chitpur Road and Barabazar.

Yet another example of waste of public money by the Trust may be given. A chief valuer was imported by it from England. He was utterly without any Indian experience, and yet this great man was expected to value properties in Calcutta. This may appear strange to most people, but the Trust thought otherwise. Then, again, after he came in, the Chief Engineer of the Trust, brought over from Madras, was suddenly got rid of for some reason not known to the public; yet he got compensation for having been sent away before his fixed term of appointment had expired. How can Government approve of such waste of public money?

42. The *Mohammadi* [Calcutta] of the 8th August, referring to the official proposals for the reconstitution of the Calcutta Municipality, remarks :— MOHAMMADI, Aug. 8th, 1913.

Reconstitution of the Calcutta Municipality.

Probably at last Government has come to recognize the reasonableness and justice of our claim for special representation on local bodies. We heartily thank Government for this. We may say that we are not at all in favour of such special treatment on principle. If the existing system of representation had conserved Moslem interests and rights even partially, we could have refrained from demanding separate rights, looking to the future to put matters right. As it is, however, we see that without some special recognition of Moslem claims in the matter of elections, it is utterly impossible for Moslem interests to be preserved. We are thus constrained to support special representation for Moslems in the interests of justice and of the dignity of our community. Even a public man of Mr. Rasul's calibre has thus felt compelled publicly to recognize the necessity of this separate treatment.

We shall not, on the present occasion, discuss whether the number of seats assigned to Moslems under the proposed scheme is adequate. We shall review the objections made even to this small concession by our Hindu contemporaries, like the *Sanjivani*. (The objections of the *Sanjivani* were noticed in the paragraph 60 of the Report on Native Papers for the week ending 9th August, 1913.)

Taking these in detail :—

(1) The objection that special representation will perpetuate the idea that Hindu and Moslem political interests are not identical, is a purely sentimental one. Experience shows that the election of Moslems by Hindu voters is impossible, save under compulsion.

(2) The next objection is that under the proposed scheme, Moslem ward electors would be dissociated from ward interests. Well, under the existing scheme, Moslem voters are often compelled to vote against their will and, being a minority in every ward, even their combined votes (if such combination is possible) cannot secure the return of Moslem against a Hindu candidate.

(3) The existing system of separate election is admittedly not without faults. Moslems are considering whether it can be possible to give it up till some better scheme is devised.

In the meantime, we earnestly request Government to accept the principle of separate representation on local self-governing bodies.

43. The *Ananda Bazar Patrika* [Calcutta] of the 7th August admits the necessity of reforming the Calcutta Municipal administration, but fails to see why it should be analogous to the Bombay system. Moreover, special representation as granted ANANDA BAZAR PATRIKA, Aug. 7th, 1913.

Ibid.

to Musalmans in Legislative Councils is supposed by many people to be fostering the seeds of dispute between Hindus and Musalmans. An extension of this system to Municipalities and District Boards is, therefore, likely to set Hindus and Musalmans against each other throughout the country.

DARSAK, Aug. 8th, 1913.

Reconstitution of the Calcutta Municipality.

44. The *Darsak* [Calcutta] of the 8th August objects to the granting of special representation to Musalmans on the Calcutta Municipal Board, and says that there is no certainty that a mere increase in the number of the Commissioners of the Municipality will remove the troubles of the ratepayers of the city.

NAYAK, Aug. 8th, 1913.

Pension for Babu Nilambar Mukerjee.

45. The *Nayak* [Calcutta] of the 8th August writes :—

So then the Commissioners of the Calcutta Municipality are going to grant a pension of a thousand rupees per month to Babu Nilambar Mukerjee. To get a handsome pension like this after only eighteen years' service, and without having contributed a single copper towards that pension, is an extraordinary piece of good luck for a Black man to have under the English rule. Babu Nilambar Mukerjee's predecessors were never granted such a large pension; and we fail to make out what superior talents our Commissioners have found in him which may justify the special favour that they are going to show to him. We remember, it was only a few years ago that Nilambar Babu withdrew the whole amount of his provident fund with interest. At that time he gave the Corporation to understand that he would never apply for a pension but go on in his service as long as he could. Why then does he ask for a pension now ? Is it that the prospective departure of Mr. Maddox from the Corporation has filled his old heart with grief, like a loving wife whose husband is about to die ? Evidently his sorrow has not made him forgetful of his own interests, for he has with tearful eyes asked his departing chief to get a good fat pension granted to him before he goes away. And, kind-hearted man that he is, Mr. Maddox has listened to the prayer and Nilambar Babu is to get a monthly pension of a thousand rupees, although his salary is one thousand and five hundred rupees. This much, however, we have been able to understand that when Mr. Maddox goes and Mr. Payne comes into the Chairmanship, Nilambar Babu will find the place made a bit too hot for him. An old man like Nilambar Babu is not likely to pull well with a young man like Mr. Payne. Hence Nilambar Babu has secured his pension in time. But will Lord Carmichael sanction such a pension ?

The Municipal Commissioners, who are all rich men, may extol Nilambar Babu as high as they can. But we, who represent the poor ratepayers, cannot do so. We have never during the whole course of his service in the Calcutta Corporation found him to have any sympathy for the poorer classes of the ratepayers of the city. We have seen many instances in which people have had their taxes remitted by Mr. Blackwood, the late Sir Charles Allen, Sir Archdale Earle, and Mr. Payne; but we do not know any case in which Nilambar Babu has even reduced anybody's rates by a pice. Is there any poor man in Calcutta to whom Nilambar has done any good service ? Is there any one among his subordinates who has for him even a fraction of the loving regard or gratitude which Babu Gopal Lal Mitra used to get from his staff ? Nilambar Babu may be a very learned man and an intelligent accountant, but he is by no means a kind-hearted and amiable person. Mr. Maddox would have done well to enquire how much Nilambar Babu pays as municipal rates for his house in Beadon Street.

We would ask our Commissioner "Babus" what right they have to give to Nilambar Babu every month a thousand rupees of the money obtained by bleeding poor ratepayers. These "Babus" may consider their favourite as a man without a parallel, and may sing his praises as loud as they can. But we will not do so. There is not a single one among the Commissioners who has a word to say for the ratepayers. Hence we are compelled to speak out, though we have to say some very unpalatable truths. We have no personal grudge against Nilambar Babu, for we have never owned any houses in Calcutta. Nilambar Babu has won his object, but still our pin-pricks will not fail to cause him pain.

46. The *Darsak* [Calcutta] of the 8th August speaks highly of the abilities of Babu Nilambar Muketjee as Vice-Chairman of the Calcutta Municipality and is glad that he has been granted a monthly pension of Rs. 1,000.

Pension for Babu Nilamber Mukerjee.

DARSAK, Aug. 8th, 1913.

47. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 8th August writes that it is a scandal that the Calcutta Eye Infirmary has to send patients away for want of accommodation. Large sums of money are being spent to satisfy the whims of individual officials, and yet a sore need of the public like this hospital is being neglected. We trust Government will promptly take steps to extend and equip this infirmary on up to date lines.

The Calcutta Eye Infirmary.

HITAVADI, Aug. 8th, 1913.

(g)—*Railways and Communications, including Canals and Irrigation.*

48. The *Pallivasi* [Bongong] of the 5th August writes that there have lately happened three collisions between a passing passenger and a waiting goods train at Gopalnagar near Ranaghat station, under almost similar circumstances. Inquiry has been made into the cause of these repeated accidents. It appears that when a consignor bribes the station officials, the goods wagons are turned on to the main line at Chakdaha road gate and the goods loaded into the wagons from the bullock-carts direct. This work is done at some distance from the station platform. If while this loading of the wagons is taking place, a train comes on, the platform officials do not hesitate to show it the usual safety signal, being ignorant of the goods train waiting further on the line. In the mean time, when the illiterate people who are loading the goods wagons find a passenger train coming up, they try in all haste to get the wagons out of the way and the result is inevitably a collision. Let the authorities inquire under whose orders the goods wagons were moved on to Chakdaha road gate on the occasion of the recent collision and let the man be punished heavily. These repeated accidents are causing great public alarm.

Railway collisions at Gopalnagar (Eastern Bengal State Railway).

PALLIVASI, Aug. 5th, 1913.

49. Referring to the silting up of the Ganges and the consequent scarcity of water in the towns and villages situated on its banks, the *Pratikar* [Berhampur] of the 8th August suggests that the river should be dredged every year in the month of October from the source of the Bhagirathi up to Jangipur. At present a dredger is sent down to work in the river every year, but it has to go away before finishing its work because of the drying up of the river. The paper is of opinion that three dredgers should be employed for excavating the silt of the river every year in October, and that these dredgers should work one from Jangipur towards the source of the Bhagirathi, another from the latter point towards the former, and the third midway between the two. If this be found to be too costly, the journal suggests that the present useless method of re-excavating the river should be stopped for three years and the money thus saved used for the above-mentioned operations.

The silting up of the Ganges.

PRATIKAR, Aug. 8th, 1913.

(h)—*General.*

50. The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 7th August says that the opium habit is ruining the hill tribes of Cachar. This habit has grown only during the last thirty years and now a fourth part of the population cannot work in the field because they have to work as day labourers for the daily supply of their opium. It is hoped Sir Archdale Earle will try to save these hill people from ruin by suppressing the use of opium among them.

Opium habit among the hill tribes of Cachar.

SANJIVANI, Aug. 7th, 1913.

51. The *Biswadut* [Howrah] of the 5th August writes that some time ago, it was stated in public that the High Court had sanctioned the appointment of a Sub-Judge for Howrah, and the District Judge of Hooghly

Wanted a Sub-Judge for Howrah.

BISWADUT, Aug. 5th, 1913.

and Howrah at the time even inspected the possible sites for the new Court building. But since then nothing has been done about it. An appeal is made to Mr. B. C. Mitra, the present District Judge, to expedite the matter and see that Howrah gets a Sub-Judge before he leaves the District.

HITAVADI, Aug. 8th, 1913.

The Government Pleadership of Purnea.

52. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 8th August writes that in the Province of Bihar and Orissa there is a good deal of jealousy going on between Bengalis and Biharis over the distribution of public appointments. The Biharis are directly and indirectly trying by all means to get only Biharis appointed to the public service, regardless of competency, and to oust all Bengalis from any share of the public patronage. There can, of course, be no objection to Biharis being rewarded for merit possessed, but it is utterly unfair that like pampered children they should demand the exclusion of Bengalis as such from the public service. A single example will show the fine spirit animating young Bihar in this matter and the way they are progressing. When Rai Nisikanta Sen Bahadur, the Government Pleader of Purnea, retired some time ago, the local District Magistrate and the District Judge asked Jyotish Babu, an eminent local pleader, to take up the Rai Bahadur's post. But the *Biharee* objected to his being a Bengali and so Jyotish Babu's eminence and learning and the recommendation of District authorities were all ignored and Mr. Shariff appointed Government Pleader. We are surprised and grieved to see this curious mode of appreciating merit. Why this injustice in the face of explicit declarations by the Lieutenant-Governor that domiciled Bengalis would be treated in all respects as natives of the Province? If the claims of these domiciled Bengalis in Bihar are ignored, the consequences are going to be very serious indeed.

DAINIK CHANDRIKA. Aug. 6th, 1913.

Ibid.

53. The *Dainik Chandrika* [Calcutta] of the 6th August refers to a recent editorial article in the *Indian Daily News* in regard to Babu Jyotish Chandra Bhattacharyya and the Government pleadership of Purnea, describing how Bengalis are treated as outlanders in Bihar and how some years ago, in the United Provinces, Bengal was regarded "as an invention of the devil". Commenting on this case, the paper writes that Bengalis are undoubtedly the foremost people among the Indians for intelligence, education and loyalty. These virtues of theirs should not all be ignored because some of them have been perverse enough to turn seditionists.

ANANDA BAZAR PATRIKA, Aug. 7th, 1913.

The Government Pleadership of Purnea.

54. The *Ananda Bazar Patrika* [Calcutta] of the 7th August, referring to the petition which has been submitted to the Government of Bihar and Orissa by Bengalis domiciled in Bihar *anent* the appointment of a Government Pleader at Purnea, hopes that Sir Charles Bayley will uphold the policy of impartial treatment of Biharis and Bihari, Bengalis by his Government, which he has had the goodness of announcing to the public more than once.

BANGAVASI, Aug. 9th, 1913.

Ibid.

55. The *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 9th August also considers the appointment of Mr. Shariff of Purnea as Government Pleader as an unjust concession to the selfish and clamorous demand of Biharis and a slight to the superior merit of a Bengali. By this act Government has aggravated the spirit of jealousy between Biharis and Bengalis.

BASUMATI, Aug. 9th, 1913.

Ibid.

56. The *Basumati* [Calcutta] of the 9th August writes in the same strain as the *Ananda Bazar Patrika* on the affair and regrets that the Government of Bihar and Orissa has, at the outcry of a few Bihari youths, insulted the Bengalis, who are well-known throughout India for their talent and abilities. It was a Bengali architect who built the city of Jaipur. Bengalis were Prime Ministers of the Jaipur State. Even the administration of the Kashmir State was not too much for a Bengali. Bengalis have adorned the benches of the highest courts in the Punjab and United Provinces. It was the example of Bengalis which led the Biharis on the path of progress. Now, before slighting the Bengalis, Biharis should remember that if the Bengalis retaliate it will go very hard with them, many of them will be deprived of their means of livelihood.

The policy followed by the Government of Bihar and Orissa in the Purnea affair requires careful consideration. It is high time for the Bengalis to know what treatment they will receive at the hands of the Government outside Bengal.

HITAVADI, Aug. 8th, 1913.

57. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 8th August writes that there is a good deal of outcry made in the Press and even by the Government of India against the injustice done to Indians in South Africa. But a similar invidious distinction, based on ill-feeling against a particular community, is being made in respect to Bengalis in Bihar and Orissa. And all officials are silent as to that. Cannot a Bengali Member of Council discuss this point in the Legislative Council? Bengalis ought not silently to look on while the Government of Bihar is pursuing there an anti-Bengali policy, like that adopted by Sir B. Fuller in Eastern Bengal.

"Hatred of Bengalis."

BASUMATI, Aug. 9th, 1913.

58. The *Basumati* [Calcutta] of the 9th August says that the abolition of the system of selling postage stamps through commissioned vendors has been causing great inconvenience to the public, specially in the mufassal where post offices are situated at long distances from each other. On holidays stamps cannot be had even in post offices. On other days they cannot be had in post offices except during the hours from 10 A.M. to 5 P.M. Large quantities of stamps also cannot always be had in post offices. To remove these inconveniences the Postal authorities ought to reintroduce the commission system, and thereby remove the inconveniences of the public pointed out above.

Sale of postage stamps through commissioned vendors.

MEDINI BANDHAV, Aug. 4th, 1913.

59. The following is a full translation of an article protesting against the partition of Midnapore which appears in the *Medini Bandhav* [Midnapore] of the 4th August:—

"Partition of Midnapore—a protest."

Last week we have shown (*1*) that the District Officer of Midnapore has altogether nothing to do with the Judicial administration of the district so that not a bit of his valuable time is spent in the administration of criminal justice; and (*2*) that as regards Land Revenue he has annually to sign 10 returns, namely, 4 of No. 9, 4 of No. 10, 1 of No. 10, and 1 of No. 41, and to conduct 8 sales, namely, 4 revenue sales in four *kists* and four putni sales in four *kists*. The number of revenue sales and putni sales does not exceed 20 in each case in a year. On a sale day the District Officer has to spend at most two hours in the work and during this time he decides all objections also, so that in every *kist* he has by no means to spend more than 6 hours. Thus, for realizing 26 lakhs of rupees during a year he has to spend only 24 hours. Again, for realising (*3*) the Excise Revenue and (*4*) the Road and Puhlic Works cesses he has never to spend more than 12 hours during a year.

The resolution which Government has published in the *Calcutta Gazette* comparing the criminal work, Land Revenue, Excise Revenue and the Road and Public Works cesses of the Murshidabad and Chittagong districts with those of the Midnapore district, leads one at once to think that when criminal cases, administration of criminal justice, Land Revenue, Excise Revenue and Road and Public Works cesses, all are as heavy in the Midnapore district as those in the two districts of Murshidabad and Chittagong put together, nay even heavier in some cases, it is by all means necessary that the burden of work on the District Officer of Midnapore should be lightened by dividing the district in two parts. In fact, it is to create such a wrong impression that the comparison has been made. But a little consideration will convince the Governor in Council that the District Officer has not to spend more than a fortnight every year in criminal work and in the work of the realization of Land Revenue and other revenues and cesses. We humbly pray to His Excellency Lord Carmichael to enquire into these matters to ascertain the truth of this statement of ours. And we firmly believe that his mind will then be disabused of the wrong impression about the heaviness of the Midnapore District Officer's work by a comparison between the work of this district and that of the Murshidabad and Chittagong districts.

In the said resolution published in the *Calcutta Gazette* it has been said (2) that the District Officer of Midnapore has to keep a sharp and careful eye on

the management of the big khasmahals in the district. On this point we beg respectfully to submit as follows:—Jalamutha and Majnamutha are the big khasmahals in the district. Jalamutha is divided into nine parganas and its annual revenue is about $2\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs of rupees; and Majnamutha is divided into 11 parganas and its revenue is about 3 lakhs of rupees. We shall now show how much time the District Officer has, in the ordinary state of things, to devote to the management of these two big khasmahals during a year.

There is a sufficient number of tahsildars in each mahal for realizing its revenue, and there are at Contai, Bhagavanpore, Hende and Kukrahati four khasmahal officers to superintend the work of these tahsildars. Again, the Subdivisional Officers of Contai and Tamluk supervise the work of these four khasmahal officers. The work of the three khasmahal officers at Contai, Bhagavanpore and Hende is supervised by the Subdivisional Officer of Contai and the work of the khasmahal officer at Kukrahati is supervised by the Subdivisional Officer of Tamluk. After realization of revenue, tahsildars submit lists of arrears. Then certificates are issued and such is the law governing the realization of Khasmahal revenue that it is impossible for a tenant to keep arrears of rent, such arrears being realized along with cost by a primary attachment as soon as the certificate is issued. And for this realization there are the tahsildars, the khasmahal officers and the Subdivisional Officers of Tamluk and Contai. Of course, the District Officer has once or twice during a year to inspect offices for one or two days, to sign only two returns during a year and also to hear and decide appeals in certificate cases. The number of such appeals never exceed three or four in a year. Consequently, it is doubtful whether the District Officer has to spend even a week during a year in khasmahal work.

In the Resolution published in the *Calcutta Gazette* it has also been said *ib* that the duties which the District Officer of Midnapore has to perform in respect of supervision of canals are unknown to most other District Officers in Bengal. This point has been paraded in the Resolution in such a manner as if the District Officer of Midnapore has to perform multifarious canal duties. But as a matter of fact he has to do nothing of the kind. All the canals in the Midnapore district are completely under the Executive Engineer of the Cossye Division, and all works relating to them are done under his supervision. Again, there is the canal Revenue Superintendent for realizing the canal revenue, which is also done by issuing certificates. The District Officer has only to hear appeals against the issue of such certificates, and it will be no exaggeration to say that the number of such appeals is nil. It is, in fact, unknown to us what work the District Officer has to do in relation to canals.

Thus although at first sight the aforesaid principal items of work in the Midnapore district may seem heavier than similar items of work in the Murshidabad and Chittagong districts, they are not so in reality and the District Officer has not to labour unusually hard for performing them. Heaviness of District Officer's work cannot be even a minor, not to speak of its being a principal ground, for which a partition of the district becomes necessary.

Next, in the Government Resolution the Midnapore District Officer's daily work has been said to be too heavy for one man. Correspondence is one of the items of daily routine work. But most letters are drafted by clerks. Of course, the District Officer has sometimes to draft important letters himself. Four or five hours in the week are sufficient for this work. Secondly, comes inspection of offices. Generally the District Officer inspects the Treasury three or four times in a year and the Munshi Office, the clerical department, the Nazir's Office, the Road Cess and Land Revenue Tauzi Office, the Certificate Office, the Record Office, the Pulbandi Office, the Road Cess Office, the Revaluation Office, the Khasmahal Office, the Ward Office, the Income-tax Office, the Excise Office and Distillery, and the Court Inspector's Office only once in a year. Two days are spent in inspecting the cash, currency notes, stamps and so forth in the Treasury. At present the Additional District Magistrate is in charge of the Treasury, so that the District Officer has not to inspect it. It does not take the District Officer more than 10 or 12 days to inspect the other offices in the head-quarters. The inspection of the three subdivisional offices at Tamluk, Ghatal and Contai takes him at

most 6 days, during which time he also becomes acquainted with and talks with the principal inhabitants of the subdivisions.

The third item of routine work is to write orders, and sign orders written by clerks. The fourth item of work is to give interviews to men of position and importance in the district. The fifth item of work is to inspect the Jail, the Hospital, the Municipal office and so forth. This is never done more than once or twice in a year. The principal item of routine work for the District Officer is correspondence. But it is never so voluminous as to require the District Officer to work at the desk himself or to interfere with his tours or to prevent him from mixing with the inhabitants of the district.

The District Officer can, if he desires, easily devote 20 days in a month to touring in the district. The official Resolution says that the proposal to partition Midnapore has been on foot since 1852. During the 60 years from 1852 to 1912, many District Officers have served as Magistrate-Collectors in the district, and most of them have found time to tour for 15 to 20 days in a month besides doing their other duties—a statement which will be proved by a reference to their tour diaries.

And our present Magistrate-Collector, Mr. Bradley-Birt, also, who is a very dutiful and popular officer, spends most of his time in the mufassal, forming the acquaintance of mufassal people, hearing their stories of joy and sorrow, sympathsing with them in their sorrows and rejoicing in their joys and inspecting even good *pathsalas*. Last year he presided over the function of distributing prizes in many schools. His work never suffers for want of time. He satisfactorily performs all the duties, great and small, of a District Officer. His rule has given satisfaction to all people in the district. Moreover, besides satisfactorily performing all his daily routine and special work as a District Officer he is finding time to write a history of the Midnapore district. Again, during his time the Governor visited Midnapore so that he had to spend a lot of time in making arrangements for His Excellency's welcome. Then, it was mainly through his efforts that an exhibition of agricultural produce and animals and birds was held at Midnapore. In this work also he had to spend a good deal of time. It, therefore, surpasses our understanding and the understanding of the 28 lakhs of inhabitants of the Midnapore district why the Resolution on the partition of Midnapore published in the *Calcutta Gazette*, says that it is beyond the power of one District Officer to conduct the administration of the district properly and that it is, for this reason, proposed to divide the district into two parts.

The burden of work on the Magistrate-Collector of the district cannot therefore be said to be the cause for a partition of the district.

The partition of Mymensingh

60. The *Charu Mihir* [Mymensingh] of the 4th August is greatly disappointed to learn from His Excellency the Governor's speech at the Dacca Durbar that the district of Mymensingh will be partitioned against the wishes of the people, although His Excellency himself admits that the opening of the proposed new railway will soon be of great help to the administration by bringing the subdivisions within easy reach of the chief town. Even if the work of the district be too heavy for one Magistrate, he may have one or more additional Magistrates to help him, but the paper considers it quite unjust that the convenience of the District Magistrate should be given preference to the wishes of the public. The journal is not prepared to admit that the interests of the people have ever suffered from the whole district being under one executive officer, and as the proposed partition will cause great discontent among the public and give rise to a strong agitation, the paper asks the Government to abandon the idea.

CHARU MIHIR, Aug. 4th, 1913.

The partition of Mymensingh, a rumour.

61. The *Dacca Prakas* [Dacca] of the 3rd August writes that there is a rumour going on that in connexion with the proposed splitting up of Mymensingh district, there is a suggestion to take Manikganj subdivision away from Dacca and join it to Tangail to form a new district. If carried out, this plan will cause terrible anguish to the people of Dacca and evoke a storm of agitation and protest. If necessary, let Tangail be joined to Dacca which even then will not become too heavy a charge. But let there be no thought of maiming Dacca.

DACCA PRAKAS, Aug. 3rd, 1913.

NAYAK, Aug. 9th, 1913.

62. The *Nayak* [Calcutta] of the 9th August has the following :—

The Indian Budget in Parliament.

Once every year the Indian Budget is discussed in the Parliament, though the debate is carried practically before empty benches. Most of the members do not attend the debate, and the few that do, saving of course those of them who are retired Anglo-Indian officials, doze or nod while it is going on. This year the Indian Budget has been introduced into the Parliament as usual, and Mr. Montagu, the Under Secretary of State for India, has delivered himself of a neat, sweet-worded speech. Sweet words, as the saying goes, butter no parsnips. But still we must be thankful to Mr. Montagu for what he has said, for he might have made his words harsh if he chose.

Mr. Montagu has asked educated Indians to help the Government in the administration of the country. That is all very well no doubt. But how can we dare help the Government so long as we have to starve and to be always treated as suspects by the police? By far the majority of the officers who carry on the government of this country are natives; and they have their own way in everything. There is, of course, a Civilian at the head of every Department, like the *sandesh* (sweet-meat) on the top of a *naibedya* (offerings of rice and other things made to a god). But he is mostly busy with his games of hockey and golf and his dances and amusements. He simply signs his names on letters after just seeing if his Babu's name appears in a corner. As for the real work of administration, that goes on of itself. If, therefore, the educated community tries to do anything on its own initiative there is trouble. All these sedition cases and harassments caused by detectives—are these not the result of the educated community coming forward to help the Government unasked? If we do not conduct newspapers, nor criticise the merits and defects of the administration, nor try to speak the truth fearlessly, such troubles will never take place. Hence we are compelled to say, why should a sensible man care to do a thing which earns him the displeasure of many a member of the ruling community, and which necessitates his engaging himself in an unremunerative task to the neglect of his own occupation in life? We admit that it is the circulation of papers like the *Sandhya* and the *Yugantar* which spread the seed of sedition in the country. But who it is that made the circulation of those papers possible and what is more, easy? None of us wish the ruin of the British Raj, nor is there any one among us who is wanting in respect for it. And yet as soon as we try to speak out the plain truth, you try to entangle us in the net of sedition. Who then would care to court danger in order to help you? Besides, you keep to yourselves the sole voice in the spending of the country's money; you never care to listen to anything that any association formed by us may have to say against any act of yours. All this causes great pain to the Indian members of Legislative Councils. We have spoken a few straight-forward words, but who will listen to us? It is better that we should not discuss such topics, for who knows what interpretation will be put on what we may say—and then perhaps we shall find ourselves in trouble.

VARTAVAHA, Aug. 2nd, 1913.

63. The *Vartavaha* [Ranaghat] of the 2nd August is of opinion that

Standardized weights.

the weights used in the different parts of Bengal should all be standardized and that a strict watch should be kept on fraudulent shopkeepers who use *cutcha* weights.

HITAVADI, Aug. 8th, 1913.

64. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 8th August deprecates the action of

The Campbell Hospital.

the Inspector-General of Civil Hospitals in Bengal in issuing an order closing the Campbell Hospital to middle-class *bhadrolog* females in future and reserving it only for women of the poor classes. The Indian middle-class number among them many very poor people, who cannot afford to pay for adequate medical treatment. It is a pity the Inspector-General cannot understand their miseries. It is this class which stands most in need of the help of charitable dispensaries. Then, again, has this exclusion of *bhadrolog* ladies been necessitated by any difficulty in finding beds for poorer women, seeking admission into the hospital? We understand that 5 or 6 *bhadrolog* women already in the hospital have been expelled under these orders. Is not this most unjust and cruel?

65. The *Barisal Hitaishi* [Barisal] of the 4th August is extremely glad to read Lord Carmichael's speech at the Dacca Durbar. It is full of a charming straight-forwardness and liberality. It is utterly free from any vagueness such as astute diplomatists affect. The problem of ruling India is getting more and more difficult; officials are getting more and more out of touch with public opinion. The newspapers are afraid to speak out because of repressive laws and there are sycophants, professed loyalists abroad, who make it their business to give false ideas of things to the officials for their own purposes. So honesty is fast disappearing from our public life. Lord Carmichael says that the great bulk of the people are prosperous and contented. This statement may not be endorsed when we find people on Rs. 30 per month who have to buy rice at Rs. 7 per maund.

BARISAL HITAISHI, Aug. 4th, 1913.

Lord Carmichael's Durbar speech at Dacca.

Next His Excellency says:—

"Those who are directly interested in politics certainly seem to me to be working within legitimate lines of advance and to be eager in very many cases—I may say in most cases—to co-operate with Government in the better administration of the country."

This is an excellent admission. But the recent prosecution of the *Patrika* newspaper and the demand of a security from it under the Press Act seems to go against this utterance. Do not steps like these interfere with the work of constitutional agitation?

Continuing, His Excellency remarked:—

"Some of our educated people do not share in the increased prosperity of the country. We have in this a serious problem which must be faced, the solution of which can perhaps best be looked for in extended facilities for technical and industrial education."

This is exactly what we want. We want only some means of subsistence. Let Government provide us with this and we want nothing more. The export of rice from Bakarganj should now be stopped, else the humble officers there are bound to get discontented.

It is also a great thing that His Excellency has recognized that reform of the police is necessary. But with increase of pay, the police must be also better educated than now. Their education and also that of the people at large should develop a sense of their duties as public servants and citizens. At present our students are kept utterly aloof from politics and people have no idea that it is their duty to help fellow-citizens in distress. This must cease. In conclusion, we earnestly ask Government to consider how much injury has been done by the Seditious Meetings Act by preventing the leaders of the country from meeting those youths who turn dacoits and giving them good counsel. Until they get such opportunities of winning over the youths who have gone astray, the leaders of public opinion cannot be held responsible for the present situation: they will be utterly helpless.

66. The *Dacca Prakas* [Dacca] of the 3rd August is greatly disappointed at the recent speech at the Dacca Durbar delivered by Lord Carmichael. It says—The sun of Dacca's glory is about to set. We are surprised to hear that at Dacca His Excellency cannot meet people from Eastern Bengal generally, as he can at Calcutta. But when Eastern Bengal had a separate Government, did not people from all parts of it go to Dacca? People go to meet the head of Government and Government officials at Darjeeling, so it is difficult to admit that they will not come to Dacca if Government wishes them to come. Certainly the Partition was not cancelled because Dacca was inaccessible from most of the districts of Eastern Bengal. If Bengalis can go to Delhi to attend meetings of the Legislative Council, why cannot they come over to Dacca for the same purpose? Then, again, Government can manage to carry on the administration from Darjeeling while some of the offices are located at Calcutta. Why then cannot administration be effective from Calcutta with some of the offices located at Dacca? The fact is, when Dacca was the capital of Eastern Bengal, no difficulty was felt in carrying on the Government. Why then should it now be impossible to retain Dacca as the capital of Bengal even for three months in the year? In short, people here

DACCA PRAKAS, Aug. 3rd, 1913.

Dacca as the second capital of of Bengal.

believe that Government can give Dacca the status and glory of a capital if only it so desires.

NAYAK, Aug. 7th, 1913.

67. The *Nayak* [Calcutta] of the 7th August writes:—

The Oudh Talukdars.

So after all Sir John Hewett has succeeded in proving his innocence in the affair known as the execution of the Oudh Talukdars, which recently formed the subject of much discussion in the Parliament as well as in the Press. Lord Crewe has accepted Sir John's explanation, though, we must say, he (Sir John Hewett) would have done better if he had laid the whole blame on the Government of India. We, who do not know nor have any chance of knowing the real facts of the case and who dare not, for fear of being hauled up for sedition, speak out even what little we have been able to know of the case, must content ourselves with the thought that whatever great men do are always right. What Sir John Hewett has done must be right. And who is there bold enough to say that it is otherwise? As for those men who have had to lose their lives, their appeal now lies with God himself.

HITAVADI, Aug. 8th, 1913.

68. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 8th August deprecates the proposed changes in the India office procedure by which henceforth only important cases will be discussed by the Council of India, all other cases being disposed of by individual members thereof. Great practical difficulties are likely to arise as to what cases are to be held important and what not. We fear that individual authority will come too prominently into play under the new arrangements, and we would prefer the collective authority of the Council to remain unimpaired as now.

India Office changes.

III.—LEGISLATION.

HABUL MATIN, Aug. 10th, 1913.

69. The *Hablul Matin* [Calcutta] of the 10th August feels the necessity for suppressing bogus medical practitioners, but says that Kavirajes and Hakims should be excluded from the scope of the intended Legislation in the matter.

Supression of bogus medical practitioners.

BASUMATI, Aug. 9th, 1913.

70. The *Basumati* [Calcutta] of the 9th August also admits the necessity of suppressing bogus medical practitioners and bogus medical schools and says that Government ought to clearly announce that it intends to include Homoepathy also within the scope of its intended legislation. The writer, however, strongly objects to the suggestion that English must invariably be the medium of medical instruction in every recognized institution. An enforcement of this principle will check the increase of medical men in the country. Arrangements should be made for giving medical education in Bengali not only in the Belgachhia Medical School but also in the Campbell Medical School where Bengali was in vogue some time ago. Government should in fact make every effort to increase the number of qualified medical practitioners in the country.

Ibid.

DARPAN, Aug. 8th, 1913.

71. The *Darpak* [Calcutta] of the 8th August takes the Bengali newspapers to task for objecting to the proposed suppression of unrecognized medical institutions and quacks. According to Hindu authorities, a quack should be driven out of a village. More people now die in this country of wrong medical treatment than of want of treatment. An imperfect medical education is no medical education at all. All medical institutions, Government and private, in the country should be raised to the standard of the Calcutta Medical College.

Ibid.

IV.—NATIVE STATES.

MOSLEM HITAISHI, Aug. 8th, 1913.

72. The *Moslem Hitaishi* [Calcutta] of the 8th August writes that lately in the Poonch state, Dewan Badrinath, the Daroga of the Jails, got incensed for some reason with Moslems, and in his anger tore some pages from a *Koran* and threw the book down on the ground violently. The Moslem prisoners who witnessed this starved themselves for 24 hours in sorrow and

An incident in the Poonch State.

agony of mind. The Chief Judge ultimately persuaded the prisoners to take food. In the meantime the Moslems have had no redress, such as they prayed for. Rather Dewan Badrinath has been promoted Major and 2 Moslems have been banished from the Riyasat in order to allay the excitement among the Moslems. Among the deportees is Mian Habib Shahib, the President of the Poonch Aujuman-i-Islamia. Will not the British Government interfere?

V.—Prospects of the crops and condition of the people.

73. The following is the full translation of a paragraph which appeared in the *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 9th August:— BANGAVASI. Aug. 9th, 1913.

Alleged famine in a village in the Khulna district.

A correspondent writes from the Atania village in the Khulna district that heavy rains having destroyed the paddy and jute crops, famine has appeared in the locality in a terrible form. Many people are living on half rations or even starving. Many again are living merely on herbs and leaves. The eating of unwholesome food is causing diseases of the digestive system. A five-year old grandson of one Naimuddin Molla of the village has died of dysentery through eating unwholesome food. A daughter of Kader Shaikh in the Adalatpur village has died after two days' starvation. Such is the condition of 75 per cent. of villagers. If relief does not come for some time many of them will die. There is no straw for feeding cows, which are now living on plaintain trees. A petition signed by 72 inhabitants of the village was submitted to the District Magistrate stating the above facts, but as yet no orders have been issued by him. To add to their sorrows, the villagers have come to know that orders have been issued to levy a punitive police tax on the village. This is like flogging a dead horse. It has struck terror into the hearts of the villagers who are at a loss to make out what to do. Another thing. When the villagers went to the District Magistrate's residence to hand over their petition to him, they had to wait four hours at the place and yet the Magistrate did not speak a word to any of them. On the contrary, a Musalman Deputy Magistrate took them to task for making the petition and said that the story of a famine was false, that the object of making the petition was to avoid paying the punitive police tax, and that, consequently, they would have to pay the tax double. The correspondent prays the Magistrate to go to the village and see its condition with his own eyes. Subordinate officers, if sent on enquiry, often avoid the trouble of making any enquiry at all by reporting that there is no famine. We here publish the substance of what the correspondent has actually written and cannot vouch for the correctness or otherwise of the information. We, too, however, request the Magistrate to go to the village and see everything with his own eyes.

74. The *Nayak* [Calcutta] of the 11th August asks His Excellency Lord Carmichael to come down from Dacca and visit the places in Burdwan and Midnapore which are now in flood. The local officers and the Divisional Commissioner are no doubt doing all they can to alleviate the distress of the afflicted persons, but the presence of the ruler of the Province is sure to cheer up the unfortunate people who have been rendered homeless and destitute. The *Nayak* also thinks that the three Hon'ble Members of the Executive Council should visit the flooded area and try to prevent the breaking out of epidemics there. NAYAK. Aug. 11th, 1913.

His Excellency Lord Carmichael to visit the flooded areas.

75. In the course of a long article, the *Nihar* [Contai] of the 5th August gives an account of the flood which has submerged the Contai subdivision and caused a widespread and wholesale destruction of houses, cattle and property. The flood has been caused by breaches in the embankments at Khagda and Dubda Pants and by heavy showers causing an inrush of larger masses of water from places on the bank of the Subarnarekha and high lands in the locality of Dantan. People who have taken shelter on elevated lands here and there are going without food and clothing. Over and above NIHAR. Aug. 5th, 1913.

Flood in the Contai subdivision.

this the weather is very foul. Distress has become extreme. Relief is not reaching the suffering people on account of the surrounding water and paucity of boats. There is no knowing what loss of life has occurred and is still occurring. It is imperatively necessary for Government to open outlets for water in the embankment at the mouth of the Sarpai river and at some safe place in the embankment along the bank of the Bagda river. Unless this is done there will be no cultivation at all and even the houses which are still standing in the flood will collapse. Government should make extensive arrangements for helping the destitute people with food and by supplying seeds for cultivation and giving medical aid if any epidemic breaks out. The attention of Lord Carmichael, the Divisional Commissioner, and the District Magistrate, is earnestly sought in the matter.

NIHAR, Aug. 5th, 1913.

Flood in the Contai subdivision.

76. The *Nihar* [Contai] of the 5th August publishes the following correspondences on the condition of the Contai subdivision in the floods :—

1. Brajendranath Pal Chaudhuri writes from Vishvanathpur that the inhabitants on the Vasudevpur, Egra and Ramnagar thanas have taken shelter on the Government embankment. This embankment which extends from Vishvanathpur to Hirakanya and is about 13 miles long is out of repairs for nearly 30 years. It has given way in many places. Through these breaches water has rushed in strong currents and inundated the adjoining country. Arrangements shonld be made for repairing these breaches.

2. Gajendra Narayan Das also writes from Vasudevpur urging the necessity of repairing the breaches referred to in the above correspondence.

3. Himangsu Sekhar Chakravarti writes from Vasudevpur that if the flood water does not pass off hastily through the Sarpai and 12th mile sluices and the Dandaparulia lock gate, the embankment at Sarpai should be broken down to make passage for water.

4. Ashutosh Jana writes from Larhuamutha that the surplus water of Bhajachanli, Chingra, Janumalu, Haturia, Satsatamal and other places within the Jalpai estate in the Larhnamutha pargana used formerly to be drained by the Chumbut river. But this river having silted up was leased out last year to tenants who have raised embankments along it for cultivation, so that it has ceased to act as a drainage canal. The silting up of the Balighai khal also is standing in the way of a good drainage of the surplus water of the locality. The drainage canal of the Argoal circuit cannot be used for draining the water of the Jalpai estate as it is the khal of a revenue-paying estate. Arrangements for the drainage should therefore be made by breaking down a portion of the Jalpai boundary embankment. Unless this is done without delay all the houses in the locality will collapse, not to speak of the harm that will be caused to agriculture.

5. Gopal Chandra Das writes from Hijli that the silting up of the Kunjapur drainage canal is ruining Hijli. Fever and cholera have broken out in epidemic forms in the locality.

6. Mahendranath Karan writes from Khejuri that great distress is prevailing in the locality.

7. Ashutosh Jana writes from Hende to the same effect.

8. Kumar Narayan Das, writing from Molundapur, assigns the following reasons for obstruction to drainage in the locality :—The blocking of the Kanlanala khal by the canal ; the blocking of the Mirjapur khal by the eight-spanned bridge; the neglect on the part of the Government to keep in good condition the khal lying outside the 10 sluices from Shyam-chowk C. Dyke to the Dandaparulia lock.

9. Dinanath Ghorai writes from Bhagavanpur that breaches in the embankment of the Keleghai river at Saintala and in the Mathura embankment at Brachawka marsh have deluged the surrounding locality.

NIHAR Aug. 5th, 1913.

Famine relief necessary for Contai.

77. The *Nihar* [Contai] of the 5th August prays the District Magistrate of Midnapore and the Subdivisional officer of Contai to make arrangements for giving relief to the starving inhabitants of the subdivision.

BARISAL HITAISHI. Aug. 4th, 1913.

"Famine again."

78. The *Barisal Hitaishi* [Barisal] of the 4th August writes that the recent vagaries of the weather have damaged the local crops considerably and interfered with the

sowing of new crops. So there is a prospect of famine impending. Middle class men with fixed incomes are already feeling the pinch severely. Government is the only source to which the afflicted people can look for help. The case of the respectable middle class deserves the special attention of the authorities. In particular, Government ought to remember that it is when people are hungry and starving that they are most ready to lend credence to the sayings of the sedition-monger.

79. The *Sanjay* [Faridpur] of the 11th August is greatly alarmed at the prospect of a terrible famine, the first signs of which have already appeared all over Bengal, and asks the Government and the zemindar community to come to the help of the distressed people.

SANJAY, Aug. 11th, 1913.

Famine.

VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

80. While admitting the usefulness of theatres as an important factor in the education of the public and even supporting the practice of having women of no character as actresses in Bengali theatres, the *Nayak* [Calcutta] of the 7th August takes exception to the fact that Mr. Hornell, accompanied by Captain Wodehouse, Messrs. Tegart and Blackwood, Maharaja Sir Pradyot Kumar Tagore, and Messrs. A. C. Banerjee and Naranath Mukherjee, recently visited the Star Threatre and witnessed the performance of a play named *Kismis*. After reproducing the handbill circulated by the manager of that theatre repudiating the charge of indecency which has been brought against the play, the paper writes:—

NAYAK, Aug. 7th, 1913.

Mr. Hornell at a Bengali theatre.

We understand that this play has been declared by the public to be an indecent one; and it is perhaps to refute the charge that Babu Amarendranath Datta, the Manager of the Star Theatre, had the play performed before the young Director of Public Instruction and two young Deputy Commissioners of Police. From the remarks which they have made about their having enjoyed themselves very much and being obliged to the manager "for so kindly arranging this special performance," one cannot by any means presume that they do not consider the play itself as objectionable. What, however, strikes us with amazement is the fact of Mr. Hornell's visiting a Bengali theatre—a thing quite unprecedented in the annals of the Education Service. When students of schools and colleges will come to know of this they will attend no other place of amusement but theatres. Evidently Mr. Hornell, who is a mere youth still, is not alive to the responsibility of his high position. It is a shame that while popular leaders like Sir Gurudas Banerjee and others are trying to keep students away from theatres by delivering moral lectures to them at the University Institute, the head of the Education Department should set them (the students) a bad example by attending a theatre himself. We have nothing to say against the two police officers, for the police may do anything and go to any place. But how could Mr. Hornell bring himself to mix with such men and visit a Bengali theatre? Unless Lord Carmichael administers a sound scolding to Mr. Hornell the whole of the Education Department will be tainted by his (Mr. Hornell's) bad example. We have never heard of senior professors, Messrs. James, Peake, Harrison and others going to a theatre and witnessing the dances of a number of public women. Why did not Mr. Hornell consult these gentlemen? There is already an idea in the public mind that the Education Department of Bengal has in a sense been affiliated to the Police Department. And this idea will be all the more strengthened by the fact of Mr. Hornell mixing with police officers and going with them to a theatre.

We do not blame the Manager of the Star Theatre for this. He is a professional man and he cannot lose an opportunity for booming his business. He has, we see, made Mr. Hornell and the two police officers mere puppets in his hands. But what sort of enjoyment did these gentlemen derive from the play, considering that they know nothing of the Bengali language and of the workings of Bengali life? It is only Bengalis who can properly appreciate a Bengali play. If any Police Inspector has reported the play *Kismis* to be indecent, we must say that it is so. But we fail to find any justification for

the two Deputy Commissioners of Police going beyond their subordinate inspectors, many of whom are graduates, and gracing the Star Theatre with their presence. Why, again, has Mr. Tegart taken part in such a disgraceful act since he belongs to the Bengal Criminal Investigation Department and not to the Calcutta Police? It is well that Mr. Lowman has not been of the party, but we should like to know whether he would be guided by the testimonials, which appear over the signatures of Mr. Hornell and his friends. Indeed the whole thing has been a very dirty one for the police officers to do. If the play be considered as objectionable by Rai Rajendra Chandra Sastri Bahadur and the Bengali Inspectors of Police, the opinions of a few young Sahebs will not be able to convince the public to the contrary. And lastly it gives us great pain to find the son of Maharaja Sir Jotindra Mohan Tagore so far forgetting his own exalted position as to mix with police officers, who are no better than striplings. But then perhaps we have no right to say anything against the doings of the wealthy "Babu" classes.

Personally speaking, we have never seen the play *Kismis*, but a perusal of the hand bill announcing it makes us half suspect that there is something rotten somewhere in the play which has been the cause of all these frantic attempts to gloss it over. We do not know why the play was stopped some time ago, nor are we aware of the cause of the sudden revival now. We ask the present able Commissioner of Police to enquire whether or not the play is an objectionable one, whether it is proper for a father to witness the play in company with his son. For otherwise the Calcutta Police will earn a great disgrace. We also ask Mr. Hornell to wipe out the stigma that has been cast on his name or else he will have to resign his post; for Bengal is no place for a light-hearted Director of Public Instruction like him.

KALYANI, July 30th, 1913.

The cause of the present distress in Bengal.

81. A single year's failure of the jute and paddy crops in Bengal, writes the *Kalyani* [Magura] of the 30th July, is making the pinch of distress felt throughout the country. Why? Because Bengal has been impoverished by the continuous drain of her wealth into foreign countries. Bengalis are said to be advancing in education. But of what worth is this education if it teaches them to earn their livelihood by service only and not to revive and build up arts and industries in the country, so as to check the bleeding which is bringing the country to death's door.

HABLUL MATIN, Aug. 7th, 1913.

Mr. De P. Webb on the cause of high rates of interest in India.

82. The *Hablul Matin* [Calcutta] of the 7th August gives the substance of the recently published book by the Hon'ble Mr. De P. Webb in which the writer holds that it is the drain on India's wealth caused by the Home charges, the detention of an enormous sum of India's money in the hands of the Secretary of State who lends it in England at very low rates of interest, and also the drain on India's wealth caused by the extensive use of foreign articles by the Indians, which are responsible for high rates of interest prevailing in this country.

SANJIVANI, Aug. 7th, 1913.

Indian Civil Surgeons and the European Defence Association.

83. Referring to the protest made by the European Defence Association against the appointment of Indians as Civil Surgeons, the *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 7th August says:—

In a letter dated the 11th December 1908, Lord Morley, then Secretary of State for India, wrote:—

"I have consequently decided that the time has now arrived when no further increase of the civil side of the service can be allowed, and when a strong effort should be made to reduce it by gradually extending the employment of civil medical practitioners recruited in India."

The Defence Association has slept over this matter for five years but has now come forward with a protest. Of the 246 Civil Surgeons in India only 30 are at present Indians recruited from the cadres of both Civil Surgeons and Assistant Surgeons. Even this has created a heart-burning among the members of the European Defence Association. What will these gentlemen do if, according to Lord Morely's letter, the number of Indian Civil Surgeons goes on increasing still? The Association's first ground of objection against the appointment of Indians as Civil Surgeons is that they are men of inferior medical qualifications to European Civil Surgeons. This is a malicious lie.

In Calcutta the best medical men, both as surgeons and as physicians, are Bengalis. Does not the Association know that in Calcutta the field of practice for Civil Surgeons is gradually dwindling?

Again, how many brilliant men are there in the Civil Medical Service like Sir Bhal Krishna of Bombay and Dr. Nair of Madras? The Association's second ground of objection is that Indians are on racial reasons unfit to render medical aid to European male and female patients. It says:—

"It is a question of the intimate relations which must of necessity exist between a doctor and a patient and of the sacred right and privilege which every man and more especially every woman seeks to exercise of being professionally attended by a qualified practitioner of his or her own race, custom and ideas in life."

The "sacred right and privilege" which the Association speaks of is not a monopoly of the Europeans. If the Indians follow the principle which the Association now advocate in favour of European doctors, there will be very little left for these doctors to do in India. However that may be, the narrow policy advocated by the Association is unsupportable. The Defence Association is blind to the fact that there is a spark of the Divine in every man, be he an Indian or a European.

The Association may, if it likes, appoint European doctors at its town cost, for Europeans throughout India. We shall never object to that. But the money of the crores of Indians cannot be spent in maintaining Europeans only as Civil Surgeons, simply for the benefit of a few lakhs of Europeans in the country. In four years 30 Indians have been appointed as Civil Surgeons. We hope that in another four years half the number of Civil Surgeons in the country will be Indians.

Indian Civil Surgeons and the European Defence Association.

84. The *Bankura Darpan* [Bankura] of the 8th August says that Government will most probably reject the European Defence Association's prayer. BANKURA DARPA Aug. 8th, 1913.

85. The *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 9th August speaks of the attitude taken up by the European Defence Association in the matter of native Civil Surgeons as a brilliant example of the European's love and partiality towards his countrymen which often lead him to trample on justice and fairplay. Europeans are unwilling to have their women treated by native doctors. How different is the conduct of the Indians who have given up the Ayurvedic system of treatment and are never so happy as when they can place the ladies of their zenana under the treatment of European doctors. When such is the demoralisation of the Indians, the conduct of the European Defence Association ought to be an eye-opener to them. BANGAVASI, Aug. 9th, 1913.

Ibid

As regards whether Indians or Europeans should be appointed as Civil Surgeons, the question is whether Civil Surgeons exist for the people of the district or for only the few Europeans who happen to be in it. If they exist for the latter, we have nothing to say against the Defence Association's protest. But if they exist for the people of the district, we must say that the same reason which makes Europeans unwilling to take medical aid from native doctors can also make natives unwilling to take medical aid from European doctors, so that the District Medical Officer ought by all means to be a native.

The European Defence Association and the *Patrika* contempt case.

86. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 8th August thus refers to the recent demand made by the European Defence Association for strengthening the law of contempt of Court in connection with the recent failure of the proceedings for contempt against the *Amrita Bazar Patrika*:— HITAVADI, Aug. 8th, 1913.

The Crown law officers probably thought that the existing law would be enough to secure the conviction of the *Patrika*. They were encouraged to think so, as on a similar previous accusation made against the *Patrika*, that paper apologised without entering upon any defence. In any event, if there is anybody to blame, it is the Crown lawyers for not having examined the existing law on the subject with sufficient care, and, if any strengthening of the law is needed, Government may be trusted to do the needful itself without any outside prompting. Anyway why should the European Defence

Association bother itself about this? It is really perplexing and causes us some anxiety. The authorities have been humiliated in this case, because their Advocate-General was at fault. We do not like that comments on *sub judice* cases should appear in public prints. But we do not favour the forging of fresh fetters for the press. We believe the existing laws are sufficient for their purpose. As it is, newspapers are hedged round with a sufficiency of dangerous law, those on sedition, libel, incitement to rioting, contempt of court, and what not. Further legislation on the same subject will be an unnecessary hardship.

In conclusion, we commend this letter to those who favour union between Indians and Anglo-Indians. Any such union is impossible until Europeans here get rid of the idea that it is necessary to put Indians under restraint as much as possible, until they begin showing greater sympathy with the Indians, in fact. Had an Anglo-Indian paper undergone the experience of the *Patrika*, these worthies would now be demanding compensation from Government for that journal, and not a strengthening of the law. It is because a "native" paper is concerned here that these worthies display all this zeal. Where can one find such an example of uuselfishness!

BANGAVASI, Aug. 9th, 1913.

The European Defence Association and the *Patrika* contempt case.

87. *Anent* the above, the *Bangavas* [Calcutta] of the 9th August says:—

The petition of the European Defence Association is unworthy of true Europeans and what the *Pioneer* has said on the subject is worthy of a true European. We heartily thank the *Pioneer* for its plain-speaking in this matter.

PARICHARAK, Aug. 5th, 1913.

Sedition in Bengal.

88. His Excellency Lord Carmichæl's speech at the Dacca Durbar, writes the *Paricharak* [Calcutta] of the 5th August, has given the lie direct to the aspersions of disloyalty cost on Bengalis by the White mercantile community of Calcutta. It has of late been almost a fashion with the European merchants to blame the Bengali for every dacoity that takes place in the province. But Lord Carmichael's speech, which is quite befitting his noble mind, has proved that the educated Bengali is loyal and not a seditionist.

HABLUL MATIN, Aug. 6th, 1913.

The English and Musalmans.

89. The following is a full translation of an article under the heading "The English and Musalman's", which appears in the *Hablul Matin* [Calcutta] of the 6th August:—

We have in the first part of our article explained the intimate relations that subsist between the English and Musalmans and proved that Musalmans love the English and wish for the permanence of British rule in India. We have also shown how British officials are expressing opinions and committing acts which injure Musalman interests. We have now to say what is the object of this article—what object is it we want to gain by this article? Our only object is to explain to our English rulers that their acts in connection with the Islamic world is causing a pain in the heart of 10 crores of their Musalman subjects in India, Egypt, the Soudan, Aden, Koweit, Muscat, and the Indian Archipelago, which will gradually cause the great loyalty and devotion they have for the British to disappear. Perhaps they (the Musalmans) will not then share their (of the British Raj) joys and sorrows in the same manner and with the same sincerity as they do now. We do not think it is necessary for us to explain that in the present situation in India, when unrest is so prominent and a number of thoughtless anarchists are hatching conspiracies, committing illegal acts against the interests of the Government, the Government would have found it of great help to themselves in the matter of quelling the unrest and improving the condition of the country if they could keep loyal subjects like the Musalmans under their influence. It is the bounden duty of every well-wisher of the British to bring to the notice of the Government and caution them against the unrest which has been firmly rooted in the country as a result of the misdeeds of their officials. Those, who, while feeling discontented at the wrong acts of Government officials, nurse their grief—the pain of their hearts—in secret, and decline to express their discontent in words, will be doing a thing the result of which will be very fatal. This hidden fire of unrest may in time assume a very terrible shape.

May be that men who are very loyal and devoted to the Government will after a time lose their loyalty and devotion. This will mean injury to the interests of the rulers and the ruled alike. In our opinion it is necessary that, if the subjects' feelings are in any way hurt by the rulers, the matter should be frankly laid before the rulers and attempts made to obtain a redress. Those, who, inspired by their flattering and sycophantic instincts, prefer to nurse their discontent and grief in secret and harbour ill-feelings against the Government in their hearts, can never be called loyal subjects. In fact, they are the enemies of the Government and opposed to the permanence of British rule.

Our humble prayer to the British Government is that they should warn their ministers and officials so that they may not in the future do anything that may hurt the feelings of the people or create in them (the people) an animosity against their rulers. The Government should direct their prompt attention to the conduct of Mr. Asquith, the Prime Minister, Sir Edward Grey, the Foreign Minister, Mr. Taylor, the Magistrate of Cawnpore, etc.

RAJENDRA CHANDRA SASTRI,

Bengali Translator.

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE.
The 16th August 1913.

B. S. Press—16-8-1913—408X—179—E. F. W.

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REPORT (PART II)

ON

INDIAN-OWNED ENGLISH NEWSPAPERS IN BENGAL

FOR THE

Week ending Saturday, 16th August 1913.

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LIST OF INDIAN-OWNED ENGLISH NEWSPAPERS RECEIVED AND DEALT WITH BY THE BENGAL INTELLIGENCE BRANCH.

[As it stood on 1st July 1913.]

No.	Name of Publication.	Where published.	Edition.	Name, caste and age of Editor.	Circulation.
1	"Amrita Basar Patrika"	Calcutta ...	Daily ...	Kali Prasanna Chatarji, age 48, Brahmin	1,400
2	"Bengalee"	Ditto ...	Do. ...	Surendra Nath Banarji and Kali Nath Ray.	4,500
3	"Hindoo Patriot" ...	Ditto ...	Do. ...	Sarat Ch. Ray, Kayastha, age 45 years	1,000
4	"Indian Empire" ...	Ditto ...	Weekly ...	Shashi Bhushan Mukharji, age 55 years, Hindu, Brahmin.	2,000
5	"Indian Mirror" ...	Ditto ...	Daily ...	Satyendra Nath Sen	1,200
6	"Indian Nation" ...	Ditto ...	Weekly ...	Sailendra Ghosh, Kayastha, age 39 years	800
7	"Indian World" ...	Ditto ...	Do. ...	Prithvis Ch. Ray	500 to 1,000
8	"Mussalman" ...	Ditto ...	Do. ...	A. Rasul and M. Rahman	1,000 to 1,500
9	"Reis and Rayyet" ...	Ditto ...	Do. ...	Jogesh Chandra Datta, age 62 years ...	350
10	"Telegraph" ...	Ditto ...	Do. ...	Satyendra Kumar Basu	1,200
11	"Herald" ...	Dacca ...	Do. ...	Priya Nath Sen	2,000
12	"East" ...	Do. ...	Bi-weekly ...	Banga Ch. Ray	200
13	"Calcutta Spectator" ...	Calcutta ...	Weekly ...	Lalit Mohan Ghosal	

I.—Foreign Politics.

894. The *Bengalee* remarks that it has heard of the lull before the storm, but not of peace before war In Eastern Europe they are concluding peace after peace, but only to give a fresh lease of life to hostilities. Reuter speaks of the latest peace at Bukharest; and in the same breath describes it as a preliminary to another struggle. The representatives of the Powers assemble one fine morning in solemn conclave, apparently shocked at the flow of blood, and cry out—"Thus far and no further." The next day they find to their embarrassment that the tide has not obeyed their command and the action of the European concert has proved no better than the proverbial old dame's mop. The combatants have taken the measure of this much-vaunted European concert, and the result of their deliberations has no binding force on their activities. And the concert have only to thank themselves for it. How can they expect others to have any respect for their words when they themselves swallowed them by the violation of the *status quo ante* declaration? Their ethical canons are all reserved for Turkey, and their latest pious act is said to be the demand for the evacuation of Adrianople. The Grand Vizier, we are confident, will say, "Thank you, sirs, you have taught us this game of stealing a march on others and we shall pay you in your own coin."

Bengalee 11th Aug. 1913.

The peace of Bukharest.

II.—Home Administration.

(a)—*Police.*

895. "What is the necessity for a partition of the Calcutta Police Court?" asks the *Amrita Bazar Patrika*. The Resolution of the Government on the administration of the Calcutta Police states that "to remove the physical congestion of the existing courts, His Excellency in Council has decided as an experimental measure to create two new courts in the northern and southern portions of the town respectively." But is there really any physical congestion? The paper invites Lord Carmichael to pay a surprise visit to the Calcutta Police Court and see for himself whether there is really any congestion, physical or metaphysical. It is informed that the Chief Presidency Magistrate has not been sitting in Court for more than a fortnight. Yet four Stipendiary Magistrates have not only been able to dispose of all the cases, but most of them could return home as early as 2-30 or 3 P.M. in a part of the year when business is considered to be at its highest. This does not indicate congestion. This only shows that there are more Magistrates than there is work for. The time has really come, not for a partition but for a reduction in the number of the Magistrates. The paper has again and again shown from indisputable facts and figures that, barring petty cases, which practically take no time, the amount of case work in the Calcutta Police Court has hardly increased at all, say, during the last five years. If the real judicial work of the Magistrates has not increased, what justification is there for a partition of the Calcutta Police Court? In the Resolution aforesaid it is stated that "there was a remarkable increase of 31,327 in the number of cognizable cases, chiefly due to prosecutions under the traffic regulations. The figures for road obstruction cases in Calcutta and suburbs have risen from 6,608 in 1908 to 24,564 in 1912." It shows clearly that there has been a large increase in the number of petty cases, which, in the Calcutta Police Court, are mainly disposed of by the Registrar and which take little or no time. It is not a partition that is necessary but a solution of the problem of the increasing number of petty cases. It appears from the Resolution that criminal prosecutions in connection with the petty cases have failed so far adequately to deal with the regulation of nuisances and obstructions, and that the present trade conditions make road obstruction inevitable in spite of the existing laws. The question of obtaining some measure of amelioration by other methods will have to be considered; meanwhile, the paper says, the policy of prosecuting for these

Amrita Bazar Patrika. 15th Aug. 1913.

The partition of the Calcutta Police Court.

offences should be relaxed. Calcutta has not become too big for one central court. With the gradual operation of the Calcutta Improvement Trust and with the increasing displacement of the population from the city to the suburbs, and with the increasing importance of the suburbs, more and more suburban courts would be necessary, and there is absolutely no need for increasing the number of courts in Calcutta. The journal hopes that the Resolution of the Government for a partition of the Calcutta Police Court will yet be modified. The Government has admitted that the question of accommodation of the Calcutta Police Court will "require further consideration."

(b)—*Working of the Courts.*

AMRITA BAZAR PATRIKA, 15th Aug. 1913.

The Oudh execution case.

896. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* remarks that the despatch of the Secretary of State to the Viceroy deals only with the question of the petition for mercy by a man condemned to death. Under the present rules the Local Government is empowered to withhold a petition for mercy to the Supreme Government only when three conditions are fulfilled, namely, (1) that the petition cannot reach the Government of India in time to allow 48 hours for consideration; (2) that there are no circumstances which, in the opinion of the Local Government, "would be likely to cause the Governor-General in Council to take a different view on the case;" and (3) that the case has not aroused considerable public interest. In regard to (3), the Secretary of State remarks that a convict whose case has not happened to arouse considerable public interest is obviously entitled to just as much consideration as one whose case has been freely discussed. He, therefore, suggests the substitution of some such phrase as "that the case is not one, in which either the nature of the crime or the history of the trial or of the petitions for mercy render the matter one on which the Supreme Government should be given an opportunity of expressing an opinion." The substitution of the phrase no doubt makes the rule more rational, but it gives no new privilege to the prisoner. In discussing the second rule, the Secretary of State makes two important admissions: first, the provision of an appeal to a High Court against an acquittal by a lower court "is unknown to English law." And yet Mr. Montagu was made to say in the House of Commons that in other countries also such a law obtains! Secondly, while the European British subject charged with capital offence has the privilege of being tried by the High Court, the Indian subject on capital charge is liable to be tried by an inferior court. The Secretary of State, however, suggests no remedy against these palpable anomalies and un-English innovations in India. Indeed, he gives no reason why such provisions should at all continue to prevail in India, though they are repugnant to British instincts. What he, however, proposes is, that when a man, accused of murder, is acquitted by a Sessions Court, and convicted by the High Court on appeal from the Local Government, the latter will be bound to forward his petition for mercy to the Supreme Government. Surely this is a very petty reform for which there was no necessity for making such a fuss in Parliament; for the Government of India seldom, if ever, interferes with the verdict of a Local Government in this respect. At least the paper has never come across a case in which a petition for mercy, rejected by a Provincial Government, was upheld by the Government of India. Rule 1, in the opinion of the Secretary of State, should not be disturbed.

(d)—*Education.*

TELEGRAPH, 9th Aug. 1913.

The Hon'ble Mr. Hornell and the Course List.

897. The *Telegraph* wishes to thank the Hon'ble Mr. Hornell in the belief that he had resumed the rather thankless task of preparing the Course List for vernacular schools. As the reader will remember, when the paper invited last year the attention of Mr. Küchler to the scandal in connection with the Course List for the Burdwan Circle it urged on him the necessity of retaining the power and privilege in his own hands; and though he

complained of his heavy work he complied with its request. Owing, however, to the belated hour, Mr. Küchler kept the previous year's list intact and thus allayed the unrest created by the Burdwan Inspector. But then it must be said that the list prepared by the Presidency Inspector, Mr. P. B. Mukharji, was unexceptional and eminently satisfactory. Such being the case, if the Director, in the midst of his multifarious and important duties finds it hard to prepare Course Lists for the different circles in the Presidency, he may, perhaps, get out of the difficulty by relegating the duty to the Secretary to the Central Text-book Committee, who by virtue of his office must be more familiar with the merits of text-books and the requirements of vernacular education than anybody else. As Mr. Mukharji is *ex-officio* Secretary to the Committee, the journal believes its proposal will meet with public approval.

AMRITA BAZAR PATRIKA, 9th Aug. 1913.

Bogus medical degrees.

898. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* remarks that the proposed legislation in regard to what is called "bogus medical degrees" should not be hastily resorted to. For, judging from the contents of the circular letter of the Home Secretary of the Government of India on the subject, the measure, if not properly safeguarded, may deal a serious blow at private medical institutions, the absolute need of which is universally admitted, including the Government itself. The authors of the proposed measure take their stand on practically unassailable ground when they say that it is a fraud on the public if the students of these institutions or those who purchase diplomas in America add such titles to their names as M.D., M.B., L.M.S., etc. The institutions themselves also may expose themselves to a similar charge by conferring these titles on their students. But is it necessary to enact a penal law to put down this evil? The object can be fully secured by adopting the simpler course of proscribing the names of the offending parties in newspapers and Government Gazettes. Secondly, the paper does not see what objection there could be if these private institutions were to coin their own titles and confer them on their students. The Government have every right to protect the misappropriation by others of the degrees which their Universities are empowered to confer; but it is beyond their province to interfere with the titles manufactured by private institutions for the benefit of their successful students. The better method of course is the creation of a Medical Board, as suggested in the Government letter, for giving titles; but, then, such a Board must be more popular than official in its constitution. The inevitable effect of the measure, if it becomes law on the lines proposed, would be to prejudice the general public against all medical practitioners who are not trained in Government colleges. This must be avoided at any cost. Here is a sentence in the circular letter to show that there is danger in store for even *kabirajes* and *hakims*:—"In the second place, the Government of India have *at present* no intention of legislating to prevent Ayurvedic colleges and similar institutions from conferring degrees nor to penalise *kabirajes*, *hakims* and such practitioners in the exercise of their profession." The words "at present" which are italicised are ominous. They mean that their turn will also come in due course. There is not a word in the circular about homeopathic practitioners. Are they to be left undisturbed? They obviously appertain to what has been called the "Western system of treatment." But, then, how can the Government decide which of such practitioners are well-trained or half-trained or untrained? For it has no homeopthic experts to advise it. The most curious feature of the circular letter is that its authors speak in the name of the "public" who, they say, "is clearly entitled to be protected against practitioners who profess to treat their patients according to the European system of medicine under the cover of spurious systems of medicine;" but the truth is, the public has nothing to do with the proposed legislation. Indeed, the people want to be left absolutely free in the choice of their medical advisers.

HERALD, 10th Aug. 1913.

The Hon'ble Mr. Lyon at the Collegiate School.

899. The *Herald* remarks that the Hon'ble Mr. Lyon during his visit to the Collegiate School on the 9th August is reported to have in course of his short address to the boys remarked that he had been to many parts of India, but a brighter set of boys he had not seen anywhere. It would not have been necessary for the paper to draw attention to such an obvious truth, an appreciation for which it thanks Mr. Lyon, for it was East Bengal which produced men like the late A. M. Basu, Monmohan Ghosh, Guru Prasad Sen among

so many gone to their rest, and a host of the living counting among them Sir K. G. Gupta holding the highest possible position for an Indian. But the journal does this because just now there is a tendency to cry down East Bengal specially among those whom now for a long time the paper has been taught to regard as its friends at the cost of those who really are.

AMRITA BAZAR PATRIKA 12th Aug. 1913.

The proposed Technological Institute.

900. The Committee appointed last year to report on a Central Technological Institute for Calcutta have at last submitted their report, writes the *Amrita Bazar Patrika*. It presents, as may be expected, a full and detailed scheme of an Institute comprising as many as six departments, viz.; (1) Engineering,—Mechanical, Electrical and Civil; (2) Textile fabrics,—Jute and Cotton; (3) Chemistry; (4) Printing; (5) Commerce and (6) Department for Women,—Dress-making, Millinery and Commerce. Provision is to be made for the instruction of 775 students of day classes and 360 students of night classes. The most important part of the scheme from the point of view of the Bengal public, is that dealing with the Engineering College. It is unfortunate that the Committee should be made to proceed on the supposition that the Sibpur Engineering College is going to be removed to Dacca. So that they did not venture to include a scheme for higher Civil Engineering in their report. They are satisfied with a scheme for a Mechanical and Electrical course of Engineering as well as only an Apprentice or Overseer class of Civil Engineering. So thoroughly have they been set in tune with the preconceived Government notion about the removal—or rather the demolition—of the Sibpur College, that they do not hesitate to adduce specious arguments in favour of the idea of depriving West Bengal of higher Civil Engineering. In this connection, be it said to the credit of Mr. Heaton, the Principal of the Sibpur Civil Engineering College, that he, of all the members of the Committee, has put, in the form of a note of dissent, a vigorous plea against the removal of the Sibpur Civil Engineering College to Dacca. He has strongly urged its retention in the present site; failing that, its removal to Ranchi. He has also recorded a well-reasoned protest against the proposed night classes as well as the inadvisability of locating the proposed Engineering Branch of the Institute in the heart of a cramped, noisy city like Calcutta. In the meantime the following extract will show with what a halter of prejudice fastened round their neck the Committee sat down to dispose of the Engineering College question:—"The reference from Government in regard to the Sibpur site prejudiced discussion on this site and the Committee condemned it, because members did not believe or even investigate my assertions in respect to the great improvement that has taken place in regard to its healthiness in the ten years that have elapsed since we first thought of the advisability of removing to Ranchi." It is unfortunate that none of the other members of the Committee—not even the Hon'ble Dr. Sarbadhicary—chose to record their protest against the vandalistic idea of demolishing the only Civil Engineering College in the Province. The Women's Department, on the admission of the Committee themselves, is practically meant to be a training ground for Anglo-Indian women. No separate estimate for this department is furnished by the Committee, but it is sure to cost the general tax-payer several thousands of rupees annually, besides a large outlay of initial expenses. The paper is sure the public will protest against the injustice of the measure. Already they have too many expensive white elephants to think of welcoming another. The estimated initial expenditure in materialising the scheme is Rs. 10,20,000 and the annual recurring charges Rs. 5,46,484, of which about Rs. 2,53,296 are expected to be met from the fees, the saving effected from the closing of the Sibpur College, and certain other economies mentioned in page 61 of the report. As to the local habitation, while the Calcutta Conference which preceded the Committee had suggested Writers' Buildings, the present Committee give preference to the Imperial Secretariat and Press Buildings and attach a detailed ground-plan to the report showing the fitness of the site proposed by them.

AMRITA BAZAR PATRIKA, 12th Aug. 1913.

Dr. Rash Bihari Ghosh's gift.

901. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* remarks that the splendid gift of ten lakhs of rupees to the Calcutta University College of Science by Dr. Rash Bihari Ghosh would unquestionably raise him still higher in the estimation of his countrymen, if

that were possible. The paper believes, barring the princely donations of the late Mr. Tata as well as Sir T. Palit, no other gifts to the cause of learning can approach that of Dr. Ghosh just announced,—an announcement, by the bye, for which the journal is indebted to Simla. It would be interesting to know the provisions made for the disposal of this handsome donation. Coming at a time when the Calcutta University is tottering under several blows, it will no doubt prove a potent tonic for bracing up its depressed nerves. The whole country, and Bengal in particular, will no doubt shower her choicest blessings on Dr. Ghosh for making such a worthy use of the millions which the goddess Luxmi is bestowing on him with a lavish hand, and his name will go down to posterity as one of the greatest benefactors of his *alma mater*.

(*e*)—*Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration.*

902. The *Bengalee* publishes a letter which has been addressed by the Chairman of the Naihati Municipality to the Commissioner, Presidency Division, in which the Commissioners pray that they might be relieved of the necessity of appointing a Sanitary Inspector in addition to the Health Officer already employed there. The paper adds that this was one of the points raised by some members in their note of dissent on the Report of the Select Committee on the Sanitary Officer's Bill. They urged that where there was a Health Officer, it should be left to the discretion of the Commissioners to decide whether an additional Sanitary Inspector should be appointed or not. Further, in view of the pledge given by the Hon'ble Nawab Sams-ul-Huda that exceptional circumstances will always be taken into consideration, the request of the Municipal Commissioners of Naihati should be complied with. They have important works of sanitation to carry through, and certainly theirs is an exceptional case.

The Naihati Municipality.

BENGALEE, 13th Aug. 1913.

(*h*)—*General.*

903. There is one suggestion in Mr. Montagu's otherwise fine speech, writes the *Bengalee*, to which it cannot give its support. In fact it runs counter to the tone and temper of the whole utterance. It is a concession to the cry of the extremists in the Anglo-Indian Press that the Civil Service have of late been so much carped at and criticised that the quality of the Service stands to suffer. Such a quality which requires an atmosphere of obsequiousness for its development is a questionable commodity. Power cannot be divorced from salutary checks anywhere in the civilised world, much less in India, where the popular voice is yet a voice crying in the wilderness. And what does Mr. Montagu mean by formulating such an absolutist doctrine in a speech resplendent with sympathy towards popular aspirations? Why does he seek to take away with the one hand what he proposes to give with the other? If the bureaucracy were to be given a *carte blanche* in India and relieved of the semblance of control which Parliament exercises over it by unavailing interpellations, then Indians would not have even the satisfaction of having their grievances ventilated before the supreme tribunal of the Empire. The Civilian is already the master of the situation as he is, and even if he is not to be questioned, why, then, adieu to all hopes of progress and political advancement.

Mr. Montagu's Budget speech.

BENGALEE, 10th Aug. 1913.

904. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* observes that Mr. Montagu's speech is conspicuous by the absence of many of those liberal sentiments which, as a rule, characterised his previous performances. It is full of platitudes and commonplaces, and several important questions have not been touched at all. Perhaps the most remarkable feature of the speech is the total ignoring of popular views on Indian subjects dealt with by the Under-Secretary of State. This is evidently due to his Indian visit. He no doubt says that "I did right" in seeing India; but, in the paper's opinion, he did wrong in coming over here. For although he saw a few non-official Indians, they had evidently failed to produce any effect on him. On the other hand, the Civilians, who had his ears constantly and amongst whom

Ibid.

AMRITA BAZAR PATRIKA, 11th Aug. 1913.

he lived, had, it appears, succeeded in stuffing him, from the sole of his feet to the top of his head, with their ideas, and converted him into a thorough Anglo-Indian official. In short, his utterances are only an echo of the official speeches with which the Indians are but too familiar in this country. Now, what is found in his speech? He announces that the pay and the pension of the Indian Civil Service, instead of being reduced, should be increased, not only in the Punjab and the United Provinces but in every Indian province. And that is exactly what the Anglo-Indian officials want, and what the non-official Indians do not. The journal wishes some members of Parliament would ask Mr. Montagu that when the members of the Ceylon Service did not get more than Rs. 2,000 at the most per month, why should their peers in the Indian Civil Service claim two and three times their pay for doing the same work? As regards the army, he says that any reduction in that direction is impossible. Mr. Montagu thus threw the whole Indian popular opinion overboard by echoing the official cry of more pay and more pension for their exorbitantly paid members of the Civil Service. The paper is, however, thankful to him for accepting at least one suggestion of his Indian visitor, namely, to utilise "indigenous voluntary agencies" for relieving overworked officials. But this does not mean anything so long as the number of the officials is not curtailed. Mr. Montagu has not a word about the famine prices which are ruling all over India and taking away the vitality of the people. Some thirty-five years ago the Government of Bengal published a work on food-grains, in which it laid down that when rice would be selling in any district at 8 seers per rupee, it would be declared as a famine district. But now one rupee does not fetch more than 6 or 7 seers! Indeed, something like a regular famine has been raging in the country during the last half a dozen years or more. The Under-Secretary of State overlooks this fact altogether and congratulates India on its "extraordinary resources." Extraordinary resources forsooth! When people die like flies from semi-starvation and such diseases as fever, cholera, plague, etc., which have been practically stamped out from all civilised countries! Like many officials here, Mr. Montagu labours under the impression that Bengal is seething with political crimes. The real fact is that villages are now infested with ordinary dakaits and burglars, whom the villagers can easily defy if they are allowed to arm themselves with guns and revolvers. But that the Government is not prepared to do, and hence this kind of crime is flourishing Mr Montagu is "for improving the police." This is possible only if the subordinate police officials are better paid and recruited more from the educated classes, and raw English lads not sent out to this country as Assistant Superintendents. The Under-Secretary's other announcement that the record of confessions before trial will not be abolished will be received with amazement in this country. The educational policy of the India Government has convulsed the whole of India. But Mr. Montagu apparently is not even aware of the seething discontent which it has created. Even the London *Times* twits him for this omission.

AMRITA BAZAR PATRIKA. 13th Aug. 1913.

905. When the Delhi boons were announced, writes the *Amrita Bazar Patrika*, the paper was the first to strike the note of warning that inside the velvet glove of an annulled partition was concealed a number of iron scabbards which boded no good, either for Bengal or for India in general One such scabbard was the transfer of the Imperial Capital which has already punctured a good many holes into the attenuated Indian exchequer. Another is that administrative phantasmagoria called Bihar and Orissa. Some of the paper's own countrymen, who, in a paroxysm of jubilation over the acquisition of the velvet glove, forgot the scabbards within, have since been brought round. Even most of the Calcutta Anglo-Indian journals decried the transfer. But what surprised the journal most at the time was that the most level-headed and pro-Indian of those, the *Indian Daily News*, took quite a different view. But at last that journal also seems to have outlived its admiration of the "statesmanship" of the Delhi boons. Else the paper would not have found it damning with faint praise one of the direct offsprings thereof in a characteristically spicy and home-driving article which winds up with the following significant corroboration of the paper's views which makes it difficult for it to restrain its modesty within bounds:—"The partition was a mistake, but the reforms are really far

Delhi boons.

worse, and we are beginning to realise this." After all, knowledge comes, but wisdom lingers.

BENGALEE, 14th Aug. 1913.

The Cawnpore mosque riot.

906. The *Bengalee* published in its issue of the 13th August an account of the Cawnpore mosque case written by its special correspondent. The correspondent waited upon the Magistrate, who received him with the utmost courtesy and had a long interview with him, the result of which has been published. At the very outset the paper thinks it its duty to thank the Magistrate for the candour and straightforwardness with which he replied to the questions put by our correspondent. The journal had observed that the local authorities were taken unawares and they evidently were unprepared for any disturbance of peace. The paper's contention was that if they had taken the necessary precautions the riot might have been averted. The Magistrate said that he had no reason to suspect that there would be any attempt on the part of the Muhammadans to rebuild the mosque. The meeting on the 3rd August was not the first meeting at Cawnpore. Two or three other meetings had already been held and everything passed off peacefully. He naturally thought that the meeting was held only to show the intensity of Muhammadan feeling. Moreover, Mr. Tyler added :—"His Honour was to have received a Muhammadan deputation on Saturday, and for the Muhammadans to try to rebuild the mosque or commit any breach of the peace at such a time would go against their own interest and they would not do that." These reasons undoubtedly seemed sufficient to the Magistrate. But what were the *Kotwal* and the police doing? On being asked by the correspondent the Magistrate said that the *Kotwal* had no information about any contemplated attempt that would be made to rebuild the mosque. Surely the *Kotwal* and the Police failed in their duty in this matter. They ought to have ascertained the intensity and volume of the public sentiment and to have suggested the necessary precautionary measures. The Magistrate is still of opinion that the Muhammadan excitement at Cawnpore was due to extraneous influence. The paper totally dissents from that view. The feeling of excitement was there. It could not have been called into being by outside influence, but probably found a living expression, clear and emphatic, when brought into contact with Muhammadan sentiment beyond Cawnpore.

AMRITA BAZAR PATRIKA, 14th Aug. 1913.

Ibid.

907. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* remarks that in justice and fairness to the local authorities at Cawnpore, it should be stated that they received great provocation at the hands of the Muhammadan mob. The display of black flags, the defiance of the constituted authority, the throwing of brickbats not only at the police but also at the District Magistrate himself when he sought to reason with the ringleaders to bring about peace and order, were acts which of course no official could tolerate. The paper's contention, however, is that, as the infuriated mob had lost their sense and the authorities had not, they should have, therefore, taken every care to avoid bloodshed. But this is a matter in which it must suspend its judgment till it has been thoroughly enquired into by a mixed committee of unprejudiced officials and non-officials and the real parties to blame found out. The journal has faith in Sir James Meston, and he will do the right thing in this respect. Calcutta had two historical riots over the demolition of mosques,—one at Shambazar and the other at Chitpur. The authorities here, however, did not fire upon the excited rabble, but brought them to their senses by regulation *lathis*. This was apparently not possible at Cawnpore, where the rioters far outnumbered the policemen. But whether this justified the authorities to use guns, simply because a few brickbats had been hurled at them, which apparently hurt no one, is a question which needs Sir James' very careful consideration. In the paper's opinion the police should never have fired on the unarmed mob unless the latter had actually become the violent breakers of public peace and order. It is the duty of every educated Indian, Hindu or Mussalman, to avoid raising the cry of "religion in danger" before an ignorant and illiterate mob. Law and order must also be maintained at any cost. At the same time, the authorities should never lose their coolness when dealing with riots, nor commit bloodshed and other excesses from groundless panic and unreasonable nervousness.

BENGALEE, 15th Aug. 1913.

Separation of judicial and executive functions.

908. The *Bengalee* remarks that the European Defence Association which recently appealed to the Government to strengthen the law of contempt has now come to the rescue of a forlorn cause. In a communication to the Government the *Englishman* says that the Association has thrown its weight

into the balance of opinions against the proposed separation of judicial and executive functions. As might have been expected, the *Englishman* has welcomed this expression of opinion and has supported it with all the weight it possesses and the power of advocacy it can command. Not trusting to its own resources, it freely calls in aid the opinion of Sir Andrew Fraser, the late Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal. Sir Andrew Fraser is no longer a name to conjure with in Bengal. One of the authors of the partition of Bengal, he represents a discredited and discarded policy. His opinion is fossilized ancient history, and may afford matter for curiosity and perhaps amusement, but cannot be regarded as the guide for responsible statesmanship. To quote him as an authority is to admit the hopelessness of the cause. The paper observes for the information of the *Englishman* that at a conference held at Darjeeling in which this question was discussed an eminent Muhammadan lawyer, now holding a distinguished position under the Government, strongly advocated the separation of the two functions. The *Englishman* says that if the functions were separated, the power of the lawyers would be immensely increased. Was Sir Harvey Adamson, who was no lawyer, also interested in strengthening the influence of the lawyers and in consolidating the fabric of the Vakeel-*raj*? We are further told by the *Englishman* that "the fatuity of imposing upon the people a measure they have repeatedly refused to accept is obvious." The *Bengalee* asks:—"Since when has the *Englishman* become the organ of the people of India and feels itself entitled to speak in their name? Where is the evidence that the people have refused repeatedly to accept this measure? The educated community are the natural leaders, the heaven-appointed spokesmen of the millions of their illiterate countrymen, and they have, with singular unanimity, demanded this reform. At the meeting of the Imperial Legislative Council in March last when this question was discussed, a record-vote, unprecedented in the annals of the Council, was registered in its favour; for the non-official Indian members, including the representatives of the landed aristocracy, voted for it. The *Englishman* may protest; the Defence Association may oppose; but the reform will come in its own good time. It is like a mountain stream gathering volume and force as it flows on, brushing aside all petty obstacles, and accomplishing its triumphant course."

V.—Prospects of the Crops and Condition of the People.

Bengalee 13th Aug. 1913.

909. The *Bengalee* observes that the floods are the one absorbing topic of conversation. People can think of nothing else and can talk of nothing else. Never was there a more striking manifestation of public spirit—of sympathy for suffering humanity than what has been evoked by this terrible disaster. It is one of those visitations of nature which chasten the human soul and draw out all that is best and noblest in it. It is a terrible misfortune, but in the ordering of an all-wise Providence the darkest cloud has its silver lining. The one predominant thought in the mind of every one, rich and poor, young and old, is how to succour the distressed and ease, however slightly it may be, the burden which is crushing them. Many young men have, for the moment, flung aside their books and have given up their avocations in response to the supreme call of sympathy. There could be no nobler training, no worthier apprenticeship than this school of help to suffering humanity. Money is pouring in from all sides; workers are vying with each other in a spirit of noble emulation. Officials and the people are co-operating in a spirit of friendliness which opens up to our eyes a glorious vista of future possibilities. The local officials of Burdwan, the Magistrate and the Judge, aided by the Maharaja, are doing their best. Mr. Lyon has cancelled all his enagagements and is hurrying to the scene of distress. What a fund of public spirit there is in Bengal, and what an unsuspected craving for co operation is slowly developing in the silent depths of the Bengali mind. And foremost in the good work have been young Bengalis. The *Englishman* itself testifies to the fact of the students of the Contai School having saved the lives of nearly three thousand persons. And all this splendid exhibition of sympathy and of willing sacrifice for the sake of others is the product of the system of education which it is now proposed to revolutionize. If there have been a hundred young men all told who have played the unhappy *rôle* of revolutionaries and dakaits, there have been at least thousands who have played the *rôle* of men, and there would be many more of this type if suitable

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opportunities were offered. The journal has a word of appeal to make to zamindars. The Burdwan district swarms with wealthy zamindars, at the head of whom stands the Maharaja of Burdwan. They should all come forward, as the Maharaja has done, for which all honour is due to him, as the dispensers of charity on this supreme occasion. They should, within the circle of their zamindari *cutcherries*, organize relief operations. They have got the money—at any rate they ought to find the money, if they have not got it—they have got the organization, and the duty is plainly theirs to come to the help of their tenants in this crisis. The paper is sure they will not be found wanting on this occasion.

910. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* observes: "When the Hon'ble Mr. Lyon went to Burdwan to inspect the flooded areas, we fondly hoped that at last the Government, of whom he is a part and parcel, would have an opportunity of having a first-hand knowledge of the terrible havoc wrought amongst the people by the floods and so of thoroughly entering into the intensity of their sufferings. But alas! that expectation has proved futile. The effect of his *communiqué* to the public as a result of his tour will be to greatly minimise the gravity of the situation. From top to bottom it is a document which is as much puzzling as disappointing to the general public. Fancy as the result of his few hours' visit confined to the town of Burdwan he could proclaim the definite and positive information that 'there has been *no loss* of life reported from *any* quarter'! May we ask him who reported this fact to him? What opportunities he or they had for pushing their enquiries into and obtaining such definite, authentic information on, all the quarters affected? Considering that those who from the very beginning of the disaster, had been toiling hard at the greatest sacrifice to reach and relieve the victims, had not yet been able to reach and obtain information about all these quarters up to now, is it not a bit surprising that his informants should procure for him all this positive information in such an incredibly short time and apparently with so little effort? Similarly bold and unhesitating is the report accepted and proclaimed by Mr. Lyon, of the Collector of Midnapur that 'there has been no loss of life' at Contai. And yet, there is the letter of our Midnapur correspondent, a thoroughly respectable and reliable gentleman, giving minute and exact details of the human corpses he came across. We fancy the Collector of Midnapur will not go to the length of characterising it as a freak of *maya* or hallucination or a deliberate misrepresentation of facts For this gentleman, who has been at great pains to go into the interior for affording relief and ascertaining the truth with his own eyes, can have possibly no reason or motive whatever for any misrepresentation or exaggeration. What is equally, if not more, surprising is that, not satisfied with the positive assertion about there being 'no loss of life' Mr. Lyon goes further and declares with an equally positive air that, at Burdwan 'the loss of crop or cattle is not great.' *Sobhan Allah*! And this although respectable eye-witnesses are reporting that they are almost daily coming across floating corpses of cattle, the stench of which is sometime, nauseating, and although most of the crops are still under water! It is the duty no doubt of Government officials to check and allay any needless panic. But in cases like the present, even exaggerated accounts and the resulting public apprehension cannot do any further mischief than what has already been caused by the floods. Indeed, in such cases it is far better to err on the side of magnification than minification. For in the former case the spread of the news of the disaster will, as it has already actually done, but impart an extra stimulus to the charitably and the philanthropically inclined to feed their noble impulses. Indeed, had that not been the case, perhaps the corpses of the dead and the bodies of the dying would have been visible even through the rose-coloured specs supplied to Mr. Lyon. On the other hand, what will be the inevitable effects of the minification of the disaster? In the first place, the poor and destitute victims who had been ardently expecting so much from their *ma bap* Government, will be disappointed and chilled to the marrow. 'Why, the *Sarkar* says there has been no loss of life anywhere, and the damage to crop and cattle is not great. Alas! that means they are perhaps not going to do anything for us. So we have nothing but destitution and starvation staring us in the face.' Indirectly,

AMRITA BAZAR PATRIKA, 15th Aug. 1913.

The Hon'ble Mr. Lyon and the floods.

it is also calculated to have a damping effect on the ardour of those who, from a distance, have been so liberally supplying the sinews of war to the noble bands of workers. Our most grievous disappointment is that Mr. Lyon has taken so much trouble to visit the afflicted area apparently only to pronounce his contradiction of the popular impressions of the effects of the flood. But it is not for *that* alone that we had hailed his visit. Then, again, let us assume the loss of human lives has been insignificant—indeed, the instinct of self-preservation all creatures are endowed with often saves them from the most perilous positions. But can even Mr. Lyon deny that at least many of those who have saved themselves from the flood will succumb to starvation and the effects of exposure? Where, then, we may ask, is any the least expression of sympathy or solicitude for the impending fate of these unfortunate people? There is not a single line, indeed, in his *communiqué* to show that the Government has keenly felt the distress of the tens of thousands of victims; not a word of consolation to the sufferers; not a single message of hope to them in the shape of the announcement of any contemplated relief-measures by the Government. Lastly, it has pained us no less that he has not even a word of encouragement to or appreciation of the numerous bands of self sacrificing young men with the only exception of the Marwaris, who must be singularly fortunate) who, at the sacrifice of all comforts and conveniences—nay, even disregarding their own health and safety—are toiling hard day and night to relieve the distressed. Of course all credit and honour is due to our Marwari brethren for the noble and yeoman's service they are rendering in such a calamity. But for a member of the Executive Government to select only one for approbation and ignore the others is hardly fair or just. It is also remarkable he has not a word of thanks for those noble-hearted, charitable gentlemen who have raised and are yet raising funds for alleviating the distress of the flood-stricken people and but for whose humane efforts many of them would have perhaps died of starvation and disease by this time. Sir William Duke, who is thoroughly acquainted with the Burdwan Division, would have certainly looked upon the situation in another light."

AMRITA BAZAR PATRIKA, 12th Aug. 1913

Floods in Midnapore.

911. Heart-rending accounts of the great mishap that has befallen Midnapore in the shape of floods have been reaching the *Amrita Bazar Patrika*. The subdivision of Contai has suffered the most. The whole subdivision has been more or less under water, affecting no less than 315 villages. It is said that a large number of men and cattle have been drowned. Hundreds of houses have collapsed and all stock of articles of food destroyed. Thousands of men have been thus rendered homeless beggars. Paddy-fields comprising lakhs of bighas now present the appearance of an endless sea. The distress of the villagers can better be imagined than described. A famine of a severe character is staring them in the face unless the Government affords them relief.

AMRITA BAZAR PATRIKA, 12th Aug. 1913.

The prospect of crops in Mymensingh.

912. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika's* Mymensingh correspondent writes to say that the prospect of crops in the district is simply alarming. At first there was insufficient rain, affecting seriously the cultivation of paddy and jute, and the continual and heavy rains later on have damaged the standing crops. Rice is selling there at famine rates. All middle class men have been affected by this state of things. The same doleful tale comes from Nadia, Jessore, and Khulna. In the latter two districts, jute has been almost totally destroyed.

VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

BENGALEE, 10th Aug. 1913.

The *swadeshi mela*

913. The *Bengalee* is glad to learn that it has been definitely resolved to hold a *swadeshi mela* in Calcutta in September next on the eve of the *Pujas*. The first *swadeshi mela* was held in 1911, and it was an unqualified success. Last year the success of the *mela* was even greater; and the exhibition always serves to give an impetus to *swadeshi* industries. The *swadeshi* spirit is not dead, though its first effervescence has disappeared. It lives and endures in the

hearts of the people and is an active social force. These *swadeshi melas* serve to demonstrate the volume and intensity of the *swadeshi* feeling and to stimulate it. Thousands, including ladies of the highest rank, come from all parts of the town and even from the mufassal to attend the *mela* and the enthusiasm which it evokes is cheering in the extreme. Tradesmen and manufacturers vie with each other in the competition for space in the exhibition area, and last year it was found impossible to meet the demand. The organizers are wise in holding the *mela* on the eve of the *Pujas*, for it serves to stimulate the *Puja* sales and affords an opportunity to those who wish to purchase *swadeshi* articles. The paper wishes the organizers every success, and it is confident that traders and manufacturers will respond to their call.

BENGALEE, 11th Aug. 1913.

The Moral and Material Progress Report.

914. Reuter has thought fit to wire out to this country the substance of the Moral and Material Progress Report for the ten years ending 1911-12, writes the *Bengalee*. The decade forms the most important and perhaps the most critical period in the modern history of India. It was the period which witnessed the partition of Bengal and the outburst of that unrest of which the partition was the root-cause. It also witnessed some of the most ameliorating measures of the century, culminating in the grant of a reformed constitution and the inauguration of a policy of conciliation and co-operation sealed and ratified by the Royal visit. An official account of such a period cannot fail to be interesting. The official report says that there has been a quickening of interest among the more educated classes in questions affecting public interests, not merely political, but also educational, sanitary and industrial. It will thus be seen that there is official recognition, not only of a political but of a universal awakening, spreading over the entire domains of our national activities. Various influences have contributed during the last few years to the improvement of the situation. This is undoubted and therefore there was the less justification for the recently-enacted Conspiracy Law and the educational proposals which are calculated to officialize the educational system. Adverting to the great question of the separation of the judicial and executive functions the Report says:—"It is elsewhere pointed out in the Report that civil jurisdiction is never now exercised by executive officers and the same may be said of important criminal trials, but minor criminal cases are still tried in all provinces by officers exercising executive and revenue functions. The heavy expenditure which would be involved in the complete separation of judicial and executive functions is necessarily an important factor in the case." If the separation is nearly complete, as is stated in the official account, and the combination of the two functions is confined only to "minor criminal cases," there is really very little to block the thorough accomplishment of this reform. It is said that the heavy expenditure likely to be incurred is an important factor in the case. It has abundantly been shown that it is not so. And even if it were, to quote the words of Sir Harvey Adamson, the object is a worthy one. The surplus balance from the Law Courts after meeting all expenditure is over a crore of rupees a year, and surely the first charge upon it should be the improvement of the administration of justice. The Government of India is pledged to it, and the country demands it with singular unanimity and emphasis.

L. N. BIRD,
Special Assistant.

11, CAMAC STREET,
CALCUTTA,
The 16th August 1913.

S. S. Press—20-8-1913—414X—175—C. W.